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If calling, please ask for
Gavin Ion



18 August 2022

Hon David Parker
Minster for the Environment
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Dear Minister Parker

NOTIFICATION OF INTENSIVE PLAN CHANGES TO WAIKATO PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN

Further to the above matter, I advise that Waikato District Council (**Council**) will unfortunately not be able to notify the intensive plan changes (**Variation**) to the Waikato Proposed District Plan (**PDP**) on 19 August 2022, as directed by central government. Council accordingly seeks an extension of the notification date to 19 September 2022 for the reasons outlined below.

Council has been undertaking the Variation work against a backdrop of an extremely high workload and organisational resource constraints due to the district plan review currently in progress. Although a recognised Tier 1 Local Authority, Council has limited resources and particularly in the Resource Management Policy space.

On 17 January 2022, Council notified the decisions version of the PDP. The appeals period was open for 30 working days, closing on 1 March 2022 with 66 appeals being received. The period within which additional parties can join under section 274 of the Resource Management Act 1991 closed on 1 April 2022. At the end of the s274 period, Council had received a further 250 notices equating to 85 parties in addition to the 66 appellants.

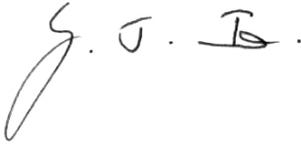
Council has indicated to the Environment Court that it anticipates having completed direct negotiations with parties within six months. As such, relevant staff within Council are working on those negotiations, thus further limiting the resources available to support the Variation project.

Despite these constraints, Council was confident that it would meet the required timeframe for notification. However, following a review undertaken by Council's legal team, it has become apparent that further work is required to ensure that the Variation is applied appropriately across the district.

On the basis that further work is required, notification must be delayed allowing for this work to be completed.

Council therefore seeks your support for an extension of four weeks, to ensure the Variation is sufficient to meet all requirements and proposes to publicly notify the Variation on **19 September 2022**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. J. I.', with a large, stylized flourish on the left side.

Gavin Ion
CHIEF EXECUTIVE