



Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan
Plan Change 1

MINUTE AND DIRECTIONS OF HEARING COMMISSIONERS

Preparation for hearing of submissions
(Minute 1)

INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on 10 April 2018 the West Coast Regional Council (“the Council”) under section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991 (“the Act”) appointed us to be hearing commissioners. The Council delegated to us the functions and duties of hearing submissions on the proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Land and Water Plan and of making recommendations to the Council on them.

The hearing commissioners are:

Allan Cubitt (independent Commissioner and Chairperson)
Councillor Terry Archer
Councillor Andrew Robb

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the West Coast Regional Council that a hearing has been set to consider the submissions on proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Land and Water Plan.

COMMENCING DATE: 18 June 2018
VENUE: West Coast Regional Council Chambers, 388 Main South Road, Paroa,
Greymouth
TIME: 9:30am

DIRECTIONS

Website

1. All information relevant to the hearings will be made available on the Council's website:
<http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/our-services/resource-management-planning/Pages/Proposed-Plan-Change-1-Hearing.aspx>
2. Submitters who wish to be heard will need to check the website for that information.

Service on the Council

3. Any information or evidence required under this minute, and any memorandum on application to the panel, may be sent:
 - a. in writing, addressed to West Coast Regional Council at PO Box 66, Greymouth, 7840 and marked for the attention of Alyce Melrose, Policy Planner, Plan Change 1, RLWP.
 - b. by delivery to West Coast Regional Council, 388 Main South Road, Paroa, Greymouth
 - c. by email to alycem@wcrc.govt.nz with "Policy Planner, Plan Change 1, RLWP" in the subject heading.

Section 42A Report

4. A report by Council officials made under section 42A of the Resource Management Act 1991 will be posted on the website on 21 May.

Confirmation of wish to be heard

5. Submitters who wish to be heard at the public hearing must confirm their intention and availability after 21 May and no later than 28 May 2018, and advise:
6. The amount of time they want for speaking to their submission and/or call evidence.
7. Whether they have any particular technological requirements to assist with their presentation.
8. Whether they intend to call expert evidence (including any planning witness).
9. Their hearing date preferences in accordance with the dates set out below. These cannot be guaranteed but all efforts will be made to accommodate the preference of submitters.

The Public Hearings

10. The public hearings will commence at 9.30am on 18 June 2018 at the West Coast Regional Council Chambers, 388 Main South Road, Paroa, Greymouth. There may be a special sitting of the Commission on the local marae to hear the submissions from Iwi, should this be requested by local Iwi.
11. The hearings schedule will enable submitters to present their submission on all issues at one time as opposed to hearing the submissions grouped by individual issues.
12. The Hearings are scheduled to run from 18 to 21 June. Additional time will be set aside as necessary.

Hearing Schedule

13. A hearing schedule will be e-mailed to submitters and posted to the website showing the location, date, sequence and time allocation granted to each submitter.
14. Time allocations will be set in light of the content of each submitter's submission, evidence (if any) and the time estimate provided as indicated in paragraph 4.
15. Submitters should arrive at the hearing 15 minutes before their scheduled time to ensure continuity in the hearings process. Earlier submitters may finish ahead of schedule enabling the next submitter to present earlier than anticipated.

Provision of Expert Evidence

16. Submitters who intend to call expert evidence are to provide a written statement of evidence of each witness in accordance with the following timetable:
17. Evidence-in-chief is to be sent to the Hearing Officer in time to be received by no later than 1 June 2018.
18. This timetable is considered appropriate given the scale and significance of the public hearing process and will enable other submitters with an interest in the same subject matter to review the expert evidence before attending the hearing. The written statements of witnesses will be posted on the website.

The Hearing Procedure

19. The Hearing Commissioners are required to conduct the public hearing in a manner which is appropriate and fair, and without unnecessary formality. We will receive evidence written or spoken in te reo Maori or New Zealand sign language. You must inform the Council of the intention to use te reo Maori or New Zealand sign language at least five [5] working days prior to the hearing so that an interpreter can be arranged.
20. The Hearing Commissioners will read submissions and evidence prior to the hearing, and take them as read, so time allocations will be fixed to enable submitters to speak to their submission and/or provide responses to new issues that may have arisen.
21. An audio record of the hearing will be maintained but there will be no transcription.
22. Any questions the Panel may have on the section 42A Report will be provided to staff by 13 June and will be put onto the Council's website. The first day (or as necessary) will be dedicated to the presentation of the section 42A reports prepared by staff. Questions from the Panel on the section 42A report at will be asked during this stage of the hearing.
23. Submitters will not be permitted to cross-examine witnesses or staff, but the Hearing Commissioners may question submitters and witnesses. Staff may ask questions for clarification purposes only.
24. The Hearings Commissioners may seek further information from the parties during the course of the hearing where it is considered necessary and appropriate to do so. This may include seeking legal advice. Any such requests shall be made in the public forum and the response will be presented in the public forum.
25. Once all submitters have been heard, the section 42A report writers will be given the opportunity to review their recommendations. They may also be asked questions by the panel in relation to issues that have arisen during the hearing. This will occur within the public hearing forum.

Deliberations

26. Following the close of hearings, the Hearing Commissioners will enter into deliberations. This will be done in-committee (i.e. in private). The Hearing Commissioners will then make recommendations to Council on amendments to the proposed Plan Change as a result of submissions, further submissions and the hearings. Council will consider the recommended amendments and make its decisions in-committee.
27. All submitters and further submitters will be notified of the release of decisions. If you are not satisfied with Council's decision on your submission, you can appeal all or part of the decision to the Environment Court.

KEY CONTACT

If you have any questions about the hearings process, please contact Alyce Melrose.

Issued by the Hearing Commissioners:

Allan Cubitt (Chairperson)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ACubitt', is positioned below the name Allan Cubitt.

Terry Archer

Andrew Robb

16 April 2018