

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Private Plan Change 55

HEARING DIRECTIONS FROM THE HEARING PANEL

1. In our directions of 23 August 2021, we set out an amended evidence timetable and hearing dates for our consideration of this Plan Change application. However, as we discussed, this was based on us being able to hold the hearing ‘in person’ at the appropriate Covid-19 level. It now appears unlikely that we will be able to hold an in person hearing in November this year as planned.
2. We have received a request from Mr Dawson (applicant’s counsel) on behalf of the applicant for us to postpone the hearing until such a date as we can hold this in person. Supporting this request is an acknowledgement that a number of the applicant’s witnesses are also located outside the Auckland Council area and would require special permission to travel to and from Auckland at Level 3, which is highly unlikely to be granted.
3. As a result, we agree with the applicant’s request and now direct that the hearing is set down for Thursday 17, Friday 18 and Monday 21, with a reserve day set aside for Tuesday 22 February 2022, should that be required. The actual location will be advised by Mr Bevan Donovan (Council’s Hearing Advisor) in due course.
4. We have also received a request from a number of the parties to slightly amend the remnants of the evidence timetable to acknowledge the impacts that Covid-19 has had on the Auckland region, a point we can understand and support, given the amended hearing dates set out for February 2022. We do not believe any party will be prejudiced by these slight amendments in dates. As a result, we also direct the following changes to the evidence timetable:
 - a. The Council to provide an addendum to its s.42A Report addressing the Applicant’s proposed amendments no later than close of business (5.00pm) on Thursday 28 October 2021;
 - b. Submitter’s non-expert evidence requested no later than close of business (5.00pm) Thursday 11 November 2021;
 - c. The Applicant to provide any expert evidence in rebuttal by close of business (5.00pm) on Thursday 25 Number 2021; and
 - d. The hearing is scheduled for the dates of 17,18, 21 and 22 February 2022.

Any enquiries regarding these Directions or related matters should be directed by email to the Council’s Hearing Advisor bevan.donovan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to be 'L Beattie', written in a cursive style.

Dr Lee Beattie
Chair on behalf of Commissioners Basil Morrison and Hugh Leersnyder
20 October 2021