

WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 92

Ōmokoroa and Te Puke Enabling Housing Supply and other supporting matters

&

Notice of Requirement

Ōmokoroa Active Reserve

HEARING DIRECTION 2

17 July 2023

FACILITATED EXPERT CONFERENCING

This Direction addresses the facilitated Expert Conferencing processes and meetings to be held prior to the full hearing commencing on 11 September 2023. This Direction should be read in conjunction with Direction 1 and any other directions of the Independent Hearing Panel (IHP).

The Resource Management Act (RMA) enables a process to clarify matters and resolve disputes. The IHP understand Council officers have to date carried out a series of informal meetings with the majority of submitters on topics raised.

On this basis the IHP directs Expert Conferencing as set out below.

Expert Conferencing is directed in relation to the following matters:

1. Urban Design (Note - the expert planning witnesses are able to attend the expert conferencing sessions)

The purpose of the conferencing process is for the parties independent expert representatives to identify, discuss, and resolve (where possible) the issues they have identified within the hearing process. This may enable parties to reduce the scope and length of the section 42A report and expert evidence; and to focus on those matters that remain in contention.

This conferencing is only to be attended by professional qualified specialists in the above disciplines and will be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Court Practice 2023.

The Expert Conferencing will be independently facilitated by Ms. Marlene Oliver. She is an experienced facilitator, having assisted in hearing panels throughout the motu over a significant period of time. Ms. Oliver is authorised by the IHP to administer the process associated with expert conferencing. She will report to the Chair of the IHP as required for the purpose of setting out the outcomes of the facilitated sessions.

A record of the conferencing will be prepared and be made available to the IHP as a Joint Witness Statement for all sessions. Expert Conferencing will be undertaken online via MSTeams.

Schedule

The Expert Conferencing is set down for Tuesday August 1st or an alternative day, Wednesday 2nd August 2023. Accordingly, Submitters are directed to identify the following details to the Hearing Manager, Ms Chaquan Nepia:

1. Confirmation of Submitter participation in Expert Conferencing.
2. Identification of subject matter expert – Name, Email, Discipline.
3. Preferred day and timing availability.

The details above shall be provided to the Hearing Manager by Thursday 20 July 2023.

All Submitters will be advised of the day and timing for the Expert Conferencing by 21 July 2023.

A draft agenda (prepared by council officers) shall be circulated at least 5 working days before the session.

If any position statements/amended planning provisions or new reports have been prepared by the Council then this information will be circulated 5 working days before the session.

The conferencing sessions will occur prior to exchange of the Section 42A Report (Officers Report) and evidence of all parties.

While attendance at the above sessions is not mandatory, the IHP strongly recommends attendance by Submitters to the Plan Change where their submission raises points relevant to the above topic(s). There are significant benefits in narrowing and clarifying issues raised by Submitters, which benefits the hearing process and outcomes that follow.

Any enquiry regarding this direction should be directed to:

Chaquan Nepia – Hearing Manager
Direct dial: 0800 926 732
Email: pc92hearing@westernbay.govt.nz



Greg Carlyon
Independent Hearing Panel, Chair