

Memorandum

To: The Hearings Panel – Proposed Far North District Plan
From: James R. Witham – Team Leader, District Plan
Date: 20 August 2024
Subject: **Minute 7 – Interim Response of Council**

The purpose of this memorandum is for Officers to acknowledge receipt and briefly outline how and when they intend to respond to 'Minute 7' from the Hearings Panel.

Minute 7 was issued by the Hearings Panel on the 16th of July 2024 in response to matters heard as part of Hearing 1, notably relating to how the Far North District, and Kerikeri-Waipapa in particular, are classified under the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPS-UD).

The minute sets out five key matters for which they seek information, which are summarised as:

- Whether Kerikeri – Waipapa is an 'urban environment' as defined by the NPS-UD;
- Whether the answer to the above is 'now' or along any other appropriate timescale;
- If Kerikeri Waipapa is an 'urban environment' then whether it captures the entire Far North District as a 'Tier 3 local Authority under the NPS – UD';
- Should the panel be giving effect to the NPS – UD 'now' rather than waiting for a Housing and Business Assessment and completion of the Kerikeri - Waipapa Spatial Plan and whether it is appropriate to give guidance to submitters now so that it can be included in evidence for upcoming hearings;
- What the consequences are of accepting submitters submission points with regard to the application of the NPS-UD to Kerikeri-Waipapa as and urban environment.

The minute then makes three direct requests of Officers being:

1. The provision of the peer review of Mr Thompson's economic Evidence;
2. An evaluation of Ms O'Connor's planning evidence with a view to providing a reasoned opinion on the 'urban environment' as set out in the 5 points above, and;
3. That these be submitted to the panel.

No timeframe has been set out by the panel for a response to these matters.

We note that the Housing and Business Assessment was released to the Panel, submitters and the public generally on 13 August 2024, which will, 'in part' support Officers responses to the questions put forward by Minute 7.



Officers have considered the request and are of the view that the most logical and appropriate time to address the matters is in evidence through the first 'urban' hearings topics. The first dedicated 'urban' topic hearing is Hearing 8 – General Residential and Engineering Standards which is at this point timetabled to be heard from the 25th of November 2024. Officers intend to fulfil the requirements of Minute 7 at that Hearing.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James R. Witham', is positioned above the typed name.

James R. Witham

Team Leader – District Plan

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