

Amended hearing dates & Update

Half-way through the proposed Natural Resources Plan hearings

8 September 2017

In this update

- **Progress:** We are half-way through the hearings on the proposed Plan.
- **Completed hearings:** What we have covered so far.
- **Important dates:** What is still to come.
- **Outcomes:** When the Hearing Panel will release its decision on submissions.
- **Implications:** What this means for the status of the proposed Plan.

Half-way through the hearings

The hearings for the proposed Plan were split up into six Hearing Streams. Hearing Stream 3 is almost complete, with Hearing Streams 4, 5 and 6 to go.

The timing of the remaining three hearing streams has been amended, primarily due to the departure of a key senior staff member and difficulties in recruiting a replacement. Further details of the changes to hearing dates can be found below.

What we have covered so far

Hearing Streams 1, 2 and 3 are almost complete. Full information on evidence that has been provided to the Panel, including audio recordings of the hearings, can be found on our portal <http://pnrp.gw.govt.nz/>.

The hearing topics covered were:

Hearing Stream 1

Commenced on 22 May

- Overall policy framework for the proposed Plan
- Beneficial Use and Development
- Areas and sites with significant mana whenua values

Right of replies on Hearing Stream 1 topics were provided to the Panel on 4 September 2017.

Hearing Stream 2

Commenced on 10 July

- Air Quality Management
- Land use in riparian margins and stock access to water bodies
- Soil Conservation

Right of replies on Hearing Stream 2 topics were provided to the Panel on 4 September 2017, apart from Soil Conversation, which will be provided on 14 September 2017.

Hearing Stream 3

Commenced on 5 September

- Water Allocation
- Natural Form and Function

Officers' s42A reports and submitter evidence has been exchanged and we have had one week of the public hearing. We have one more week of the hearing and a report back from some technical experts (and possibly further direction from the Panel) before this hearing stream is complete.

What is still to come

There are three hearing streams remaining:

Hearing Stream 4

Now due to commence on 12 February 2018

- Water Quality (including the discharge of wastewater to water)
- Stormwater

Hearing Stream 5

Now due to commence on 26 March 2018

- Beds of Lakes and Rivers
- Wetlands and Biodiversity
- Discharges to Land
- Contaminated Land, and Hazardous Substances

Hearing Stream 6

Now due to commence on 7 May 2018

- Coast
- Natural Hazards
- Significant Historic Heritage Values

More details on the dates where the officers' s42A reports will be available, and when expert evidence is due, will be provided to those submitters who have advised that they wish to be heard at the hearings. This information will be available on the portal:

<http://pnrp.gw.govt.nz/> to everyone.

When the Hearing Panel will release its decisions

As a result of amending the schedule for hearing streams 4, 5 and 6, the Panel has been granted an extension to notify its decisions on submissions. These decisions are now due by 30 November 2018¹ (instead of 31 July 2018).

What this means for the status of the proposed Plan

There is no change to the status of the proposed Plan until the Panel notifies its decisions on submissions.

The rules in the proposed Plan have had legal effect since the proposed Plan was notified on 31 July 2015.

Once the decisions on submissions are notified there will be a 30 day period in which appeals may be lodged with the Environment Court. The Plan will not be fully operative until all appeals (if any) are resolved. Those parts of the Plan which are not appealed can become operative.

We would like to thank all the submitters for their participation in the hearing process to date and look forward to completing Hearing Stream 3, and resuming the remaining hearings in February 2018.

¹ Under s37(1) & s37A(2)(a)