

WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

PROPOSED CHANGE 1 TO THE WELLINGTON REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

MINUTE 11

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF INDEPENDENT HEARING PANELS

1. Earlier this month, Chair Craig Thompson gave notice to the Chief Freshwater Commissioner Judge Newhook, and Wellington Regional Council that he has to resign from the Freshwater Hearings Panel (FHP) due to personal circumstances. Chair Thompson advised the Chief Freshwater Commissioner, the Regional Council and the panel members that this was a very difficult decision for him to make and he expresses his regret that he is unable to continue as the Chair and member of the FHP.
2. On behalf of Judge Newhook, the Council and panel members, I wish Matua Thompson and his whānau well and thank him for his valued contribution to the process to date.
3. On 21 August 2023, the Chief Freshwater Commissioner appointed me as Chair of the FHP. I will also continue in my existing role as Chair of the Part 1, Schedule 1 (P1S1) Panel appointed to hear and make recommendations on the non-freshwater parts of Proposed Change 1. In making this appointment, Judge Newhook noted the importance of ensuring as much integration as possible between the two processes.
4. In addition, this morning Wellington Regional Council approved the appointment to the P1S1 Panel of Freshwater Commissioner Wratt who is already on the FHP. This appointment will strengthen the knowledge and expertise of the P1S1 Panel particularly on science and environmental management and policy.
5. These appointments mean that the two panels now have complete overlapping membership which will be beneficial given the importance of alignment and integration of the Change 1 provisions which are of course spread between the two hearing processes, and also recognising the requests from submitters and reporting officer support for some re-categorisation of provisions. As we confirmed in Minute 10, we will make our recommendations on the categorisation issue in our final reports to Council.

Dated: 24 August 2023

D Nightingale
Chair
Part 1, Schedule 1 Panel
Freshwater Hearings Panel