

## FILE NOTE

DATE	12 February 2024
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SUBJECT	Extension of statutory timeframe for Further Submissions on Proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan

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### **Extension of a time limit under section 37(1)(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991**

The Manager, Environmental Policy, Wellington Regional Council, acting under authority delegated by the Wellington Regional Council, extends the time period for the lodgement of further submissions on Proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan under section 37(1)(a) of the Resource Management Act. The time period for the lodgement of further submissions is extended from 10 working days to 20 working days.

#### **Reasons for extension of time:**

In determining an extension to the statutory timeframe for lodgement of further submissions, the Wellington Regional Council has given consideration to the following matters, as required by section 37A(1) of the Act:

**a) The interests of any person who the Council considers may be directly affected by the waiver**

The persons directly affected by the waiver are those who wish to lodge a further submission. No person will be prejudiced by the extension of the timeframe as Council has not yet notified the summary of decisions requested and so no further submissions have been lodged at this stage. The extension will positively affect the interests of anyone who is seeking to make a further submission.

Section 37A(6) of the Act requires every person who is directly affected by the extension of time limit to be notified. The Council will meet this requirement as follows:

- any person or organisation that lodged a submission on Proposed Change 1 will be notified of the extension of time at the time of notification of the summary of decisions requested through direct notification of the summary of decisions requested
- the Public Notice for the further submissions process will state that an extension to the time limit under s37(1)(a) has been given
- the Council website will include information about the extension of time and the reasons for the extension.

**b) The interests of the community in achieving adequate assessment of the effects of the proposed regional policy statement change**

The Wellington Regional Council considers that the extension to the 10 day time limit for the lodgement of further submissions will contribute to the quality of further submissions for the Natural Resource Plan Change process. The extension recognises that:

- Many submitters have resource constraints and are likely to be involved in other concurrent statutory processes led by territorial authorities across the region
- Proposed Change 1 is a substantial change to the NRP with a large number of submission points on significant topics. Further submitters will need additional time to review these submissions points and formulate their further submissions
- Related to the above, some members of the community may not have been involved in the first round of submissions but may meet the criteria for making a further submission and seek to do so. Additional time to familiarise themselves with the process and the content may be required.

**c) The Wellington Regional Council's duty under section 21 of the Act to avoid unreasonable delay**

The Wellington Regional Council does not consider there will be an unreasonable delay arising from granting this extension of the time limit for the further submissions period. However, no further extensions to this time limit will be granted in recognition of the statutory timeframes it is required to meet in subsequent phases of the Freshwater Planning Process and Schedule 1, Part 1. Any further submissions received after the closing date will be marked as late, and a decision will be made by the Hearing Panel about whether those further submissions are to be accepted.

**Nicola Arnesen**



12/02/2024

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