

**GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region**

**HEARING PANEL MINUTE 5**

**Hearing Stream 1**

**9 June 2017**

**MINUTE/DIRECTIONS FOLLOWING FIRST WEEK OF HEARINGS**

**Introduction**

1. This Minute is the third following commencement of the hearing. The purpose of this minute is to set out the Panel's response to some substantive matters raised in the third week of Hearing Stream One.

**Substantive Matters**

2. During the course of this week's hearing, we heard from a range of infrastructure providers on several policies and objectives but there was a distinct focus on the following two matters:
  - a) The definition of *Regionally Significant Infrastructure* (RSI), and
  - b) Policy P4 of the PNRP regarding *minimising adverse effects*.
3. In respect to the first matter, there was a common theme arising relating to the alteration of the definition of RSI in the PNRP in order to either add new items of infrastructure not already included in the definition or to modify or clarify other items already present in the definition. For completeness we note that some submitters during the first and second week of Hearing Stream One (in Masterton) also addressed this matter. It became apparent to the Panel that there were a variety of different wordings being promoted to achieve the particular outcome(s) relating to the definition of RSI. For example, in relation to the question of whether the local electricity distribution network should be included in the definition of RSI; there were different wording responses from Powerco and from Wellington Electricity Lines Ltd.
4. In respect to Policy P4 there appeared to be two themes. Firstly, that the Policy be deleted in its entirety as it was considered unnecessary and secondly that the Policy be substantially reworded.

5. We are mindful that both of these provisions (the definition of RSI and Policy P4) impact on a larger network of objectives and policies in the PNRP and it was suggested to us by many of the infrastructure providers, that if the above-mentioned alterations to the definition of RSI and Policy P4 were made, then this may negate the need for wholesale change (either via the modification of existing or addition of new objectives or policies to the overarching policy/objective framework of the PNRP. It was also suggested in terms of s32 of the Act that there was a certain degree of efficiency and effectiveness to that potential outcome.
6. The Panel wants to convey that they are yet to make any findings on these two matters. However, the Panel also notes that some of the infrastructure providers had indicated a willingness to provide a coordinated response or potential solution to one or both of these matters.<sup>1</sup> Other submitters also indicated that they would potentially join any conferencing of this nature. The Panel considers that this may be a good idea.
7. The reason for the Panel requiring this confirmation is two-fold. Firstly, the Panel wants to be assured that there is a genuine appetite for this process from the various infrastructure providers and if so that the process will be undertaken in a coordinated manner. Secondly, such confirmation (one way or the other) will determine whether the Panel would defer the requirement for the s42A Officers' Right of Reply on these matters which is due no later than the July 4 2017, being 10 days after hearing from the last submitter for Hearing Stream One. In order to extract full value from this exercise it would be desirable that the relevant s42A Officer/s are also involved in the conferencing of these two PNRP provisions.
8. If the parties are so minded to conference on a co-ordinated basis then they should confirm this to the Panel, via the Hearings Officer, and confirm the particular party that will coordinate this conferencing. This response is required by 5pm Tuesday 13 June 2017.



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Mark St.Clair

Chair

For and on behalf of

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<sup>1</sup> First Gas, NZTA, KiwiRail and Wellington Water written statement presented at the hearing on 6 June 2017  
(presented by First Gas)

Proposed Natural Resources Plan Hearing Panel

9 June 2017

Note 1: The Hearings Officer is the Council's 'point of contact' for submitters and the media.

The contact email address is: [regionalplan@gw.govt.nz](mailto:regionalplan@gw.govt.nz)

Note 2: The Council's website address is: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/proposed-natural-resources-plan/>.