

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Resource  
Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of Submissions and Further  
Submissions on the  
Proposed Wellington City  
District Plan

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**Minute 48**

**2024 Hearing Arrangements (3)**

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### **Minute 48 - 2024 Hearing Arrangements (3)**

1. Our Hearing Administrator has pointed out that in Minute 38, we fixed the date for Stream 9 rebuttal evidence as 3 June, and that this is a public holiday (Kings Birthday). The date obviously needs to be changed. Accordingly, rebuttal evidence will be due on 4 June, and as a consequence, the deadline for Stream 9 legal submissions and other presentations to be provided will also slide one day, to 7 June.
2. The second issue we wish to address relates to the provision for hearing submissions on the ECO Chapter. In Minute 40, we noted the uncertain regulatory environment, and the fact that the Council was considering notifying a variation specifically on indigenous biodiversity issues. The combination of those factors prompted us to defer hearing of submissions on the ECO Chapter. At that point, our intention was that those submissions would be heard in September.
3. Since then, representatives of Central Government have made a number of public statements about the Government's plans for management of indigenous biodiversity. While we understand the Government's intention is that the legal obligation to give effect to the NPSIB will be suspended, the exact form such a suspension might take is unclear to us, and the Resource Management Amendment Bill incorporating this change is not proposed to be introduced to Parliament until May. How long thereafter before the Amendment Bill becomes law, and whether it changes post introduction, are of course matters for Parliament.
4. We have also received advice from Council Officers that they intend to take a paper to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee of Council in June, seeking further direction on how the Council wishes to proceed in relation to this topic.
5. Against that background, we do not propose to finalise arrangements for hearing of submissions on the ECO Chapter at this time. The best we can do is to confirm to submitters on this topic that their submissions will not be heard before the end of August, at earliest.

6. We are hopeful that we will be in a position to advise the way forward following the Council Committee Meeting in June.
7. Lastly, we note that the makeup of the Stream 10 (Designation) Panel has changed. The Stream 10 Hearing Panel will now comprise Commissioners Robinson (as Chair), Black, Lutz and Schofield. All other directions regarding that hearing remain as per Minute 38.



**Trevor Robinson**

Chair

For the Wellington City Proposed District Plan Hearings Panel

**Dated 16 April 2024**