

**Before**

**The Canterbury Regional  
Council**

**In the Matter**

**Of:**

**Proposed Change No. 1 to the  
Canterbury Regional Policy  
Statement Chapter 12A  
(Development of Greater  
Christchurch) including  
Variations 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**Ninth Minute for all Parties to the PC1 and Variation Proceedings**

1. At some hearings, and in some Memoranda from various parties, requests have been made for submitters or further submitters to have the ability to respond to the answers provided by the S42A report writers in response to the questions posed to them in the Sixth Minute issued by the Hearing Panel.
2. The provision relied upon by the Commissioners in seeking those responses is s.41 (4) which does not envisage any such procedure, which runs the risk of extending the duration of the hearing unnecessarily. The concern that has been expressed to us, however, is that the report writers may raise new matters which the other parties will not have had the opportunity of responding to.
3. We were not envisaging that any new material would be researched at such a late stage in this process and do not encourage that. Our expectation is that the report writers will be referring us to matters already in the public arena but which are necessary for us to take into account given either that relevant issues have been raised by submitters which they did not address in their initial reports, or which we have raised.
4. In the normal course of such hearings such questions would have been dealt with orally by question and answer at the conclusion of each submitters' presentation. Given the very large number of submitters needing to be heard, and the massive task of ensuring that occurred in a timely manner, we have adopted a practical approach to the hearing process of leaving report writer responses to the end to avoid repetition, as many submissions have raised common issues. To ensure a focus to the questions and to enable reasonable time for responses we posed some questions in writing in advance and may still yet do so again. That does not in our view expand or change the restricted nature of the responses we envisage receiving.
5. For all the above reasons we do not presently see that it is likely that we will receive new material that submitters have not had the opportunity of addressing. Accordingly while we do not encourage anyone to seek to be heard further after the report writers have addressed us on 31 August, and 1 & 2 September, we make the point that any such request would have to be accompanied by very cogent reasons as to the nature of the 'surprise' factor or prejudice giving rise to the request to be heard any further, and why such proposed rebuttal material could not have been advanced to us earlier.

Dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009



R.D.Crosby  
Chairman of Commissioners