



## **Proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan: Variation 1 Chapters 4-8**

### **Hearing of Submissions**

#### **Order of Proceedings**

1. The Chairperson shall declare the hearings open and introduce the Members of the Hearing Committee, and the officers presenting the Council Officers' report.
2. The Council Officer's reports shall be taken as read unless requested otherwise by the Chairperson.
3. As the starting point for their verbal submissions, submitters are requested to focus on those officer report recommendations they disagree with.
4. Each submitter who made a submission on Proposed Variation 1 and who requested to be heard, shall be dealt with in the order set out in the hearing schedule prepared in response to the Notice of Hearing. This will occur as follows:
  - (a) The submitter (or counsel on their behalf) appearing shall state their representation by declaring their full names, including the names of any counsel and witnesses appearing on their behalf.
  - (b) Council officers may be asked questions about their Section 42A reports by members of the Hearing Committee
  - (b) The submitter shall present their submissions although, at the discretion of the Chairperson, parts or all of these may be taken as read. Submitters who do not focus on the officer's recommendations may be asked by the Chairperson to respond to those recommendations on the submitters submissions. Members of the Hearing Committee may ask questions of the submitter (or their witnesses) about their submissions and/or evidence.
  - (c) Council officers may be asked if they wish to comment on any points arising from the presentation of the submissions, any supporting evidence and any subsequent discussion. They may also be asked if they seek any clarification of points made by submitters.
5. The Chairperson shall adjourn the hearing or declare the hearing closed as appropriate.
6. The Hearing Committee shall, in committee (public excluded), consider all evidence and make recommendations to Council on all submissions.

## **Rules of Procedure for hearings on Variation 1 proposed NRRP**

1. The hearing will be open to the public and the news media
2. **Protection of Sensitive Information**

The Hearing Committee may of its own motion or on the application of any submitter to the hearing make the following orders:

  - (a) That the whole or part of some specified proceedings shall be held with the public excluded.
  - (b) Prohibiting or restricting the publication or communication of any information supplied to it in the course of the hearing where it is satisfied that such orders are necessary:
    - (i) to avoid serious offence to tikanga Maori or to avoid the disclosure of the location of waahi tapu or waahi taonga; or
    - (ii) to avoid the disclosure of a trade secret or unreasonable prejudice to the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or is the subject of the information;

and the importance of avoiding such offence, disclosure or prejudice outweighs the public interest in making that information available. Any submitter seeking to use this provision shall advise the Council at least three working days prior to the hearing.
3. **Use of Maori Language**

Any submitter or witness may elect to speak Maori or to present evidence written in Maori. Notice of intention to present evidence in Maori shall be given at least ten working days prior to the hearing to enable arrangements to be made for the attendance of a certified interpreter.
4. **Cross-Examination**

Cross-examination is not permitted. Only the Chairperson or other members of the Hearing Committee may question any submitter, witness, or officer. Generally only questions of clarification of the submissions, evidence, or officer report may be asked, and all such questions shall be directed through the Chairperson. Whether the question is put to the person it is directed at is at the discretion of the Chairperson.
5. **Evidence**

Submitters, and their witnesses on the day they are heard, shall make available at least 10 copies of written evidence for the use of the members of the Hearing Committee, officers, other submitters and news media. The Committee encourage all submitters to make their evidence available to the Environment Canterbury (ECan) at least two working days before it is scheduled to be heard. This will allow committee members to become familiar with the topics covered. Such information may be made available electronically by emailing it to: [sophie.toutain@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:sophie.toutain@ecan.govt.nz)
6. **Officers' Reports prepared under Section 42A RMAct**

Copies of written reports by officers or consultants of the Council prepared in terms of Section 42A are legally required to be sent to submitters who requested to be heard so that they are received at least five working days before the hearing. However, ECan will endeavour to send them out 10 working days in advance.
7. **Hearing Order for Chapters 4-8**

Because of the nature and complexity of Chapters 4-8, and the scope and number of submissions being heard, the hearings will proceed in stages. We anticipate each of Chapters 6-8 will comprise one hearing stage, but Chapters 4 and 5 will require many hearing stages spread over many months. Section 42A officer reports are being prepared by topic area for each stage. Hearing dates will be notified to submitters when the officer reports have been sufficiently developed that staff are confident of meeting the hearing date that is set.
8. **Venue for Hearings**

Hearings will generally be held in the Christchurch offices of ECan at 58 Kilmore Street. However, the Hearing Committees may hold hearings in other venues if the need arises.
9. **Release of decisions**

Because of the inter-related nature of the chapters, and to ensure consistency between them, the Hearing Committees will finalise their recommendations for decisions on submissions following completion of all hearings on Variation 1. Decisions will be released once they have been considered and approved by Council.