

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management
Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of hearing submissions and
further submissions on the
Proposed Waikato District Plan

AND

IN THE MATTER of preparations for Hearing 8 -
Raglan

MINUTE FROM HEARING COMMISSIONERS

28 April 2020

Introduction

1. The hearing to consider submissions on those provisions of the proposed Waikato District Plan (“**proposed plan**”) that relate to Raglan is scheduled to begin on 2 June 2020.
2. The purpose of this Minute is to confirm that:
 - a) The Raglan Hearing will commence on 2 June 2020, as planned.
 - b) Given:
 - i. The uncertainty associated with knowing what COVID-19 restrictions will apply in early June;
 - ii. The need to provide certainty for submitters;
 - iii. The success of the three Zoom hearings held by the Panel in April;
 - iv. The very positive feedback of submitters that participated in those Zoom hearings;
 - v. Finding suitable hearing venues around the District had proven to be difficult, and the Panel had previously decided that all hearings would be held in Ngaruawahia, submitters would need to travel to Ngaruawahia for a face to face hearing; and
 - vi. The strong support for Zoom hearings expressed by from Raglan residents in response to our Minute of 27 March 2020,

the Panel has decided that **the Raglan hearing will proceed as a Zoom hearing.**

- c) Further details about how submitters can access a Zoom hearing will be provided to them in due course.
 - d) To assist those submitters who may not have access to a suitable computer, tablet or smartphone (all of which allow participation in Zoom meetings), or who are nervous about the technology, Council hopes to be able to make a computer terminal available in the Raglan Library for those submitters who need it. That said, no firm commitment can be made at this time, as this will be dictated by whatever COVID-related “rules” are in place at that time.
 - e) In the event that a submitter cannot participate in the Zoom hearing via computer, tablet or smartphone, and/or COVID restrictions prevent a computer being made available in the Raglan Library, submitters can still join a Zoom session by telephone or cellphone.
 - f) The timing for the provision of the section 42A report, evidence, legal submissions, rebuttal evidence and evidence summaries remains as set out in our Directions of 20 May 2019 and 26 June 2019 – noting that the section 42A report has been prepared in accordance with those Directions and is available on the Council’s website.
3. Any questions regarding the above are to be addressed to the Hearings Administrator, Ms Sandra Kelly, either by email or telephone, **no later than 5 pm on Wednesday 13 May 2020**, as follows:
- Email Districtplan@waidc.govt.nz
- or
- Telephone 027 382 0021
4. Also, to assist Council staff, any submitter that would like to use a computer terminal at the Raglan Library (if doing so is permitted by the new COVID “rules”), or who would need to participate via telephone or cellphone should contact the Hearings Administrator, **no later than 5 pm on Wednesday 13 May 2020**.
5. The Panel will make decisions about when subsequent hearings can resume on a face to face basis, once the country proceeds past the COVID Level Three restrictions and the implications of the new “rules” is known.
6. The Hearings Administrator should provide this Minute to all submitters who had requested to be heard at the Raglan hearing, and post it on the Council website, as soon as possible.



P H Mitchell (Chair)

On behalf of Commissioners P Mitchell, P Cooney, J Sedgwick, L Te Aho, J Gibb, D Fulton and W Maag

28 April 2020