

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE:

PLAN CHANGE 38: STRATEGIC DIRECTION

MINUTE 12 OF THE INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

1. This Minute is being sent to you because you are either a submitter or a Council reporting officer to **PC38 Strategic Directions** to the District Plan.

Minute Purpose

2. During the hearing for the Strategic Directions of the District Plan it became very apparent to the Panel that there would be some benefit if the 'Energy Sector' hearing participants got together to produce a coordinated response to the Strategic Direction provisions due to the various iterations (albeit similar) that has come before the Panel.
3. We discussed this briefly with Ms Hayley Stronge and Fraser Graafhuis (Mercury) originally and then explored the idea more fully with Mr Miles Rowe (Genesis Energy). Ms Nicola Foral and Ms Romae Calland (Manawa Energy Limited) were present online also. In addition, Mr Mike Stevens and Mr Mark Crisp representing Contact Energy also contributed to the discussion when they appeared in person
4. It is very pleasing to the Panel was that there was verbal agreement and commitment from all these parties at the hearing to provide a coordinated response to the provisions.
5. Mr Rowe kindly offered to be the 'lead coordinator' of the sector group which we see including the following parties:
 - Genesis Energy Limited
 - Mercury
 - Manawa Energy Limited
 - Contact Energy Limited
 - Transpower Limited
6. We appreciate that the representatives of Transpower (Ms Eng and Ms Whitney) were not party to these discussions having presented much earlier at the hearing. We have assumed they may have an interest in being involved in the above caucusing given they are the owner and operator of the National Grid, but that is completely at their discretion.

Outputs

7. We would appreciate the following:
 - An agreed version of Strategic Direction provisions
 - An agreed s32AA analysis
 - (As part of the above), a wiring diagram or table showing the relevant

higher order documents and their provisions, and the lower order provisions to ensure that they work together i.e., that there is a 'line of sight' with no gaps or orphans.

8. We acknowledge that the verbal discussion during the hearing focused on Strategic Directions 4 and 5 (Climate Change and Nationally and Regionally Significant Infrastructure respectively) however we do see some relevance of Strategic Direction 6 Natural Environment Values and encourage this to be considered also.
9. Mr Rowe will put together a programme setting out the terms of the deliverables (detailed in the above paragraph) and lodge this with the Hearings Administrator by **1pm Tuesday 22 August 2023** for the Panel's confirmation of its appropriateness. The Panel will confirm this that same day.
10. We also see value in providing Mr Rowan Sapsford (s42A writer) an opportunity to participate in the process once the Energy Sector has had the ability to get to a certain draft point.
11. To be clear we are not directing formal expert conferencing, we are encouraging a coordinated response from the Energy Sector to assist us in our deliberations and decision making.

Timing of Deliverable

12. In order to maintain an efficient hearing timetable, the following timetable is applicable:
 - Mr Sapsford's participation in the provisions from **Friday 25 August 2023**
 - The final delivery is due by **5pm Friday 1 September 2023**.

Energy Chapter

13. The above aside, all the above submitters presented a common view that the provision they are requesting in response to PC38 (and presumably PC42) are in lieu of having such provisions collectively grouped into an Energy chapter (or even an Energy, Transport and Infrastructure chapter as anticipated by the National Planning Standards).
14. Ms Samuel for the Council acknowledged that was a logical outcome of the ongoing sectional review of the Operative District Plan but indicated it would need to be accommodated by the future bundle of plan changes to be considered next year subject to appropriate resources being available. She indicated that given the Council's resource limitations, it would be of great assistance if the energy sector could take a lead in this by producing a draft of energy chapter provisions following some initial collaboration with the Council and relevant stakeholder in the district. Ms Samuel advised that the Council would take responsibility for any resultant Schedule 1 process to progress a plan change.
15. We tested the appetite for such an approach with the representatives of the energy sector who presented and again were encouraged to see a positive reaction to the suggestion. We hasten to add that our responsibilities and

jurisdiction does not extend to directing such a course of action. We were simply testing the waters for such an action. We will formally record this in our ultimate recommended decisions on PC 38 and PC42 but in the meantime, we simply record the responses to date here.

Next steps

16. The Panel will provide subsequent Minutes on any further updates in relation to the hearing's proceedings in due course.
17. Any submitter enquiries relating to the above content and the hearing should be directed to the Hearing Administrators in the first instance Hilary Samuel or Haydee Wood and can be contacted at districtplan@taupo.govt.nz.

DATED Saturday 19 August 2023



DJ McMahon

Chair - Independent Hearings Panel

For and on behalf of:

Commissioner Elizabeth Burge

Councillor Kevin Taylor