

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Plan Change 47 – Māori Purpose Zone.

SECOND MINUTE

INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Second Minute is to respond to further matters raised by submitter Johnnie Mushet in his 12 June 2026 email to Council.

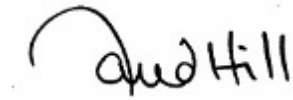
BACKGROUND

2. Mr Mushet raises two matters in his email of 12 June 2026 which he says are procedural objections necessitating an immediate postponement of the hearing scheduled for 22 June 2026.
3. The two matters raised relate to:
 - (a) A perceived bias in the Panel selection; and
 - (b) Information relating to a reserve management plan that he says is relevant and has been withheld.

HEARING PANEL RESPONSE

4. Council's panel selection process is not directly a matter for the Hearing Panel itself. The independence and objectivity of the Hearing Panel is, of course, paramount and to be safeguarded – as should, and will, be demonstrated at hearing and in the decisions on submissions that are made.
5. In the first instance, declarations of real or perceived conflicts of interest are required of panel members as a matter of course and can be addressed at the commencement of the hearing if there are such. Neither Panel member considers there to be such with respect to Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Mr Mushet has provided no evidence to the contrary.
6. The matter of information – a Cultural Values Assessment from Poipoia – that was apparently commissioned and held for an altogether different purpose and process (i.e. a reserve management plan under the Reserves Act 1977) is not before this Panel determining a matter under the Resource Management Act 1991. Furthermore, its potential relevance to PC 47 is unclear, and no submission or evidence, within the scope of submissions made, has been produced that cites or explains why that might be the case.

7. Accordingly, neither of the matters raised reaches a threshold sufficient to warrant postponing the scheduled hearing.
8. Any enquiries regarding this Minute or related matters should be directed to the Council at districtplan@taupo.govt.nz.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hill', with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

David Hill (Chair)
Independent Hearing Panel

Date: 15 June 2026