

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

AND

IN THE MATTER of **Private Plan Change 108 Crestview Rise** to the
Auckland Unitary Plan

HEARING DIRECTION #3 FROM THE HEARING PANEL

1. Pursuant to section 34A of the RMA, Auckland Council (the Council) has appointed the Hearing Panel – Richard Blakey (Chairperson), Vaughan Smith and Helen Mellsop. The Hearing Panel's function is to hear the application and submissions and make a decision on the Plan Change proposal by Harbour View Heights Limited Partnership (**Applicant**), including any changes to it that are within scope of the notified Plan Change. It is also to deal with any procedural matters.
2. On 29 May 2025 the Applicant filed a memorandum seeking that expert conferencing be directed in respect of stormwater attenuation, and relevant planning matters.
3. Clause 8AA (Resolution of Disputes) of the First Schedule of the RMA enables a process to resolve disputes between parties. The purpose of the conferencing is for the parties' experts to identify, discuss and potentially resolve (or not) issues in contention between them. This may enable all parties to focus on those matters that remain in contention in their evidence and at the hearing. Accordingly, in terms of this Plan Change, the Hearing Panel agrees that expert conferencing may be useful on the stormwater and planning topics.
4. The Hearing Panel has considered the Applicant's memorandum and accordingly directs the following:

Expert Conferencing

5. Expert conferencing is to be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Court Practice Note 2023. The Applicant is to arrange an online session and conduct the conferencing with the expert parties. Those experts participating in the conferencing are to make themselves available to appear at the hearing in person if required to do so by the Hearing Panel.
6. At this stage and without intending to constrain the scope of expert conferencing the Hearing Panel directs the expert conferencing to be on stormwater and planning. The session may be attended by planning and stormwater experts.
7. Parties are to inform the Council's Senior Hearings Advisor, Chayla Walker (email address below), in respect of the expert witnesses (name, expertise, and contact details) who will attend the conferencing sessions. This information shall be provided no later than **4pm on Wednesday 4 June 2025**.

8. The expert conferencing will take place prior to the release of the section 42A addendum report (due on 13 June 2025) and we understand that it is likely take place on or about 9 June 2025. In accordance with this Direction, the detailed scheduling of sessions is delegated to the Applicant.
9. For each session, a joint witness statement should be prepared identifying areas of agreement and disagreement, with the reasons for each witness's position recorded succinctly. All joint witness statements are to be provided to the Hearings Advisor as soon as possible following the sessions.
10. While these directions cannot compel all of the parties to agree to take part in the conferencing sessions or compel expert witnesses to attend and participate, the Panel strongly recommends that they do so. The sessions will provide a degree of formality for those parties and witnesses who attend in an effort to clarify and narrow the issues in contention. This should ensure that the hearing is more efficient than if conferencing sessions were not held.
11. Any enquiries regarding these Directions or related matters should be directed to the Council's Hearings Advisor, Chayla Walker, by email at Chayla.walker@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.



Richard Blakey, Chairperson
Date: 30 May 2025