

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



CB-COR2719

13 March 2026

Helen Edwards
Director
K3 Legal
By email: helen@k3.co.nz

Dear Helen

I refer to your letter dated 9 March 2026 regarding appointments to the Streamlined Planning Process Panel for Auckland Council's Plan Change 120.

I can confirm that Dr Stuart Donovan, Malcolm McCracken, and Matthew Prasad completed the required Making Good Decisions course in November 2025 and were accredited as hearings commissioners under the Resource Management Act 1991 shortly thereafter. Details of their accreditation is available at the Making Good Decisions Programme website, administered by WSP (<https://hearing-commissioners.wsp.com/>).

Regarding your concerns about Dr Donovan's appointment, I remain satisfied that his appointment to the Plan Change 120 Panel was appropriate. I am confident he will approach the hearings with an open mind, and that any perceived conflicts of interest can be adequately managed by Dr Donovan and the Panel Chair, in accordance with the standard process. I do not consider Dr Donovan's expertise in urban economics, or the professional views he has expressed in that capacity, to amount to pre-determination or bias.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Cc: Hon Tama Potaka, Minister of Conservation
IHP Panel Secretariat, pc120hearings@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz