

Before the Independent Hearings Panel

In the matter of the Resource Management Act (1991)

And

In the matter of Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience to the Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in Part (**AUP**)

**Memorandum of counsel on behalf of Auckland Council in relation to
Minute 1 from the Independent Hearings Panel dated 24 February
2026**

Date: 26 February 2026



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MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL

- 1 As the Independent Hearings Panel (**Panel**) is aware, we act for Auckland Council (**Council**) in relation to Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience (**PC120**) to the Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in Part (**AUP**).
- 2 On 19 February 2026 and 24 February 2026, counsel for the Council filed memoranda responding to the Panel's Hearing Direction 1 of 11 February 2026.
- 3 On 24 February 2026 the Panel issued Minute 1 (**Minute**). In paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4 of the Minute the Panel addressed the Council's request in its memorandum dated 19 February 2026 for guidance on how to approach the request from some submitters that the Council withhold the submitter's name and address for service. The Council indicated in its memorandum of 19 February 2026 that in the interim it would keep those particular submissions separate from the other submissions on PC120.
- 4 At paragraph 3.3 of the Minute the Panel directed that if any submitter seeks to have their name or address for service kept confidential, they are to make a request to the Panel by 4:00pm, Wednesday 11 March 2026, for a waiver of the requirement to comply with the RMA regulations and forms.
- 5 In the Minute the Panel also advised that it intends to make all of the original submissions and the list of submitters provided to it by the Council publicly available on the Panel's webpages on Thursday 26 February 2026. As the Panel will be aware, the list of submitters and original submissions were provided by the Council to the Panel on 23 February 2026.
- 6 While the Council has kept the initial group of submissions that it identified as pertaining to submitters who sought to have their name and / or address kept confidential separate from the submissions provided to the Panel on 23 February 2026, we are instructed by the Council that its planners have not been able to

review the entirety of the PC120 submissions that have been provided to the Panel to check whether there are any additional submitters who have sought to have their names and/or addresses kept confidential.

- 7 In this regard we are advised by the Council that there are around 3000 submissions yet to be reviewed with a view to identifying any further confidentiality requests.

- 8 We are therefore instructed that the Council respectfully requests that the Panel delays publicly releasing those 3000 submissions yet to be reviewed until the Council has been able to identify all relevant submissions where confidentiality may have been sought.

- 9 In the interim the Council also respectfully suggests that a batch of approximately 7000 submissions that have been reviewed and further confidentiality requests not identified could be released on Thursday 26 February 2026 as planned by the Panel. Council officers would be able to liaise with the Panel secretariat to advise which submissions had been reviewed and could be released on Thursday 26 February 2026 if the Panel was amenable to this approach.

Date: 26 February 2026



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D K Hartley / A F Buchanan
Counsel for Auckland Council