

## **Before the Independent Hearings Panel**

**In the matter** of Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

**And**

**In the matter** of Plan Change 78: Intensification (**PC78**) to the  
Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in Part (**AUP**)

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**Reporting update memorandum of counsel on behalf of Auckland  
Council to the Independent Hearings Panel in response to the  
Directions from the Independent Hearing Panel dated 16 September  
2024 and 16 December 2024**

**Date: 15 January 2025**

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## MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL

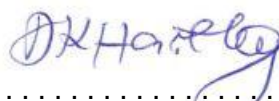
### Introduction

- 1 This memorandum is filed on behalf of Auckland Council (**Council**) in response to the Directions from the Independent Hearing Panel (**Panel**) dated 16 September 2024 and 16 December 2024 (**Directions**) and further to the Council's reporting memorandum dated 20 December 2024.
- 2 In its reporting memorandum dated 20 December 2024, the Council noted the Panel's indication in the Minute of 16 December 2024 that its immediate focus will be to hear the remaining Topics relating to Qualifying Matters (identified in Attachment 1 to the Minute) as they affect the Metropolitan Centre Zone and precincts. In paragraph 15 of the reporting memorandum, the Council also respectfully requested additional time until 15 January 2025 to consider other Topics that could be scheduled for early 2025 to assist the Panel to programme Topics in a logical sequence, and to confirm the availability of its witnesses.
- 3 The Council has contacted its witnesses following the Christmas and New Year period and can confirm its witnesses are generally available and that it is in a position to advance hearings based on the list of Topics provided by the Panel.
- 4 The Council does not consider that there are additional hearing topics that are relevant to the Metropolitan Centre Zone and precincts. However, the Council respectfully seeks the removal of hearing topic 014F Height – Metropolitan Centre WC intensification response from the list of immediate focus hearing topics. This topic relates to submissions covering various zones (including residential zones) within walkable catchment areas around Metropolitan Centre Zones, not to the Metropolitan Centre Zones themselves.

### **Next steps**

- 5 In accordance with the Directions, the Council will provide the next update by 30 January 2025 (unless the Panel directs otherwise).
- 6 The Council respectfully suggests that following the scheduling of hearings that the Panel follows a similar process that applied to the City Centre Outstanding Matters hearing where it confirmed with submitters whose submissions relate to the Panel's scheduled hearing topics if they wished to be heard at the same time in advance of evidence being submitted.

**Date:** 15 January 2025



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**D K Hartley / A F Buchanan**  
Counsel for Auckland Council for  
PC78