

## **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**)

---

**Reporting 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**

**Date: 30 January 2025**

---



Solicitor on the Record  
Contact solicitor

Diana Hartley  
Anne Buchanan

diana.hartley@dlapiper.com  
anne.buchanan@dlapiper.com

+64 9 300 3826  
+64 9 300 3807

Level 15, PwC Tower  
15 Customs Street West, Auckland 1010  
PO Box 160, Auckland 1140  
Tel +64 9 303 2019

## **MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL**

### **Introduction**

- 1        This memorandum is filed on behalf of Auckland Council (**Council**) in response to the Direction from the Independent Hearing Panel (**Panel**) dated 16 September (**Direction**) and further to the Council's reporting memoranda dated 30 September 2024, 30 October 2024, 2 and 20 December 2024 and 15 January 2025.
- 2        In paragraph 5 of the Direction, the Panel requested the Council to provide an update on its interaction with the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform (Hon Chris Bishop) and/or the Ministry for the Environment (**Ministry**) and the status of any proposed variations to Plan Change 78: Intensification (**PC78**) by 30 September 2024 and monthly thereafter.
- 3        Accordingly, this memorandum provides a further update to the Panel regarding the matters the Council was asked to report on, to the extent that the Council is able to respond to these.

### **The Council's interaction with Hon Chris Bishop and/or the Ministry**

- 4        As was the case in our previous memorandum, and recognising that the holiday period has recently ended, we are instructed that discussions are continuing at a high level between the Council, Hon Minister Bishop, and officials from the Ministry.
- 5        We are also advised that the Council has still not received any further correspondence from Hon Chris Bishop that is directly relevant to PC78. However, should the Council receive any such further correspondence from Hon Chris Bishop or the Ministry, we are advised that this will be provided to the Panel as soon as practicable.

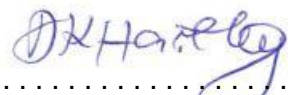
### **Status of proposed variations to PC78**

- 6 In our previous memorandum dated 20 December 2024 we advised that we were instructed that work continues on the Auckland Light Rail Corridor planning response and the qualifying matters in the Corridor, as well as on the natural hazards planning response. This work is still continuing.

### **Next Steps**

- 7 In accordance with the Direction, the Council will provide the next update to the Panel by 28 February 2025 (unless the Panel directs otherwise).

**Date:** 30 January 2025

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