

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 Direction from
the Independent Hearings Panel dated 16 September 2024**

Date: 31 October 2024



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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 Direction from the Independent Hearings Panel (**Panel**) dated 16 September 2024 (**Direction**) and further to the Council's reporting memorandum dated 30 September 2024.
- 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 The Council filed a memorandum on 30 September 2024 with the Panel in response to the Direction and the Council advised it would provide the next update by 31 October 2024. Accordingly, this memorandum provides a further update to the Panel regarding the matters the Council was asked to report on.

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

- 4 We are instructed that Council staff continue to liaise with Ministry officials and have requested a further workshop to discuss the proposed second Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) Amendment Bill, including clarifying whether there will be a "bespoke" legislative solution for Auckland as broadly indicated by the Minister in his 4 July 2024 press release.
- 5 At this stage, we are instructed that the Council has not received any further correspondence from Hon Chris Bishop that is directly relevant to PC78. However, should the Council receive any further information from Hon Chris Bishop or the Ministry about the form of any proposed legislative amendments to the RMA that

are relevant to PC78, this will be provided to the Panel as soon as practicable.

Status of proposed variations to PC78

- 6 In the Council's memorandum dated 30 September 2024, with respect to the status of variations, we advised that we were instructed that work continues on the Auckland Light Rail Corridor planning response and the qualifying matters in the Corridor. This work is continuing.
- 7 We are also instructed that there have been additional deliberative democracy workshops regarding risk tolerance to natural hazards with a representative group of Aucklanders on 12 and 19 October 2024. Iwi engagement, workshops with the leaders of storm affected communities and key stakeholder engagement are also occurring throughout October and into November focused on risk frameworks and specifically risk tolerance with the results informing preparation of the Council's planning response for natural hazards, alongside technical material.
- 8 We are also advised that, at this stage, Council staff are planning further workshop time with elected members to take place in November and December 2024. These workshops will involve discussions relating to the phase two RMA Amendment Bill, proposed changes to National Policy Statements, and the status of PC78, covering a broad range of Government reform proposals.

Next steps

- 9 In accordance with the Direction, the Council will provide the next update by 29 November 2024 (unless the Panel directs otherwise).

Date: 31 October 2024



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Counsel for Auckland Council for
PC78