

Before the Independent Hearings Panel

In the matter of the 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 directions from the
Independent Hearings Panel dated 16 September 2024**

Date: 1 May 2025



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MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL

Introduction

- 1 This memorandum is filed on behalf of the Auckland Council (**Council**) in response to the Direction from the Independent Hearings Panel (**Panel**) dated 16 September 2024 (**September Direction**) and further to the Council's reporting memoranda dated 30 September 2024, 30 October 2024, 2 and 20 December 2024, 15 and 30 January 2025, 28 February 2025 and 1 April 2025.
- 2 In paragraph 5 of the September Direction, the Panel requested that the Council provides 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 further to the Council's previous reporting memorandum dated 1 April 2025, regarding the matters the Council was asked to report on.

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

- 4 As the Panel is aware, Council received correspondence from Hon Chris Bishop (**Minister**) that is directly relevant to PC78, dated 12 March 2025 (**Minister's letter**). The Council provided a copy of the Minister's letter to the Panel in its memorandum dated 14 March 2025.¹

¹ Accompanying Minister's Direction to the Minister's Letter:
https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Resource-Management-Direction-for-the-Intensification-Streamlined-Planning-Process-to-Auckland-Council-Amendment-Direction-2025_dated.pdf

- 5 We are instructed that the Council has not received any further correspondence from the Minister that is directly relevant to PC78 since the Minister's letter dated 12 March 2025.

Status of Light Rail Corridor and natural hazards planning responses

- 6 In our memorandum dated 1 April 2025 we advised that although the Council is no longer required to notify a plan change or similar to address the management of significant risks from natural hazards and the Light Rail Corridor by 30 April 2025, we were instructed that work is still continuing on the natural hazards planning response.
- 7 Since our memorandum dated 1 April 2025, we are instructed this remains the case and work continues on the natural hazards planning response.

Next update

- 8 In accordance with the September Direction, the Council will provide the next update to the Panel by 30 May 2025, unless the Panel directs otherwise.

Date: 1 May 2025



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