

**BEFORE THE HEARINGS COMMITTEE**

**IN THE MATTER**                    **of**            **hearings**            **on**  
**submissions**  
**concerning**            **the**  
**proposed One Plan**  
**notified by the**  
**Manawatu-**  
**Wanganui**  
**Regional Council**

**Introductory statement of Helen Marr**  
**for the Te Ao Maori hearing**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The purpose of this brief statement is to summarise and draw your attention to the information that is relevant to this hearing. I will briefly set out the relevant provisions of the Proposed One Plan (POP) that are the subject of this hearing, and set out their role, and how they are connected to other chapters in the POP. The rest of the report then summarises the information that has been pre-circulated to you. I am more than happy to elaborate on any of these matters if the hearing panel have any questions.

## **SCOPE OF THIS HEARING AND ROLE OF CHAPTER 4 IN THE PROPOSED ONE PLAN**

2. This hearing is into the Te Ao Maori provisions of the Proposed One Plan contained in Chapter 4.
3. The scope and background paragraphs in Chapter 4 (page 4-1) sets out the primary purpose of Chapter 4 which is to identify the resource management issues of significance to hapu and iwi in the Region. This is a requirement of the RMA (s62(1)(b)). The Chapter also fulfils the obligation in Clause 3B of Schedule 1 to indicate how those issues have been addressed in the plan. This is done throughout the policies of this chapter but specifically Policy 4-4 which identifies in Table 4.1 the specific ways the POP addresses the issues.
4. This function of Chapter 4 is very important. It 'gives life' to the environmental issues raised by iwi and hapu and clearly identifies how they have been dealt with. In this way Chapter 4 and the issues of significance to hapu and iwi are fundamentally integrated into the framework of the POP. They are not mentioned in isolation to the rest of the POP, as can sometimes occur and could have been a criticism of the operative Regional Policy Statement.
5. In this way Chapter 4 is intimately linked to many other chapters of the POP. Chapters 6 and 13 which deal with discharges to water and land are particularly relevant.
6. The Chapter also provides important contextual information, about the hapu and iwi of the region, and their values.

## **INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE HEARING PANEL**

7. You have been provided with Planning Report prepared by myself which summarises the submissions on this chapter and makes recommendations on whether those submissions should be accept in whole or in part or not at all, and how the provisions of the POP should be changed to reflect those submissions.
8. As stated in on page 7 of my Planning Report, it is limited to planning evidence, I do not attempt to provide any opinion on the substance of cultural matters, only on how they may be appropriately incorporated into the POP. This is a complex area, and I believe that the submitters will provide their own perspective on these matters, and that the panel has its own expertise to assess these matters. However, as always, if there is any assistance we can provide the hearing panel on these issues we will endeavour to provide that.
9. You have also been provided a s42A report by John Maassen which outlines the provisions of the RMA relevant to the expression of the Maori world view, and the responsibilities of local authorities in regard to this. The provisions are many, in various parts of the RMA and using various 'decisional verbs' of varying strengths (para 18 of Mr Maassen's evidence) from giving effect to, have regard to, shall take into account etc. Mr Maassen's report is very useful in summarising these. Mr Maassen will be available on the last day, Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, to answer any questions you may have of him in relation to this.

## **EVIDENCE FROM SUBMITTERS WHO HAVE ALREADY PRESENTED ALL OR PART OF THEIR SUBMISSION**

10. On Tuesday 8 July a number of submitters presented all or part of their submissions and will not be attending the individual topic hearings, including this Te Ao Maori hearing.
11. The following submitter raised matters in relation to the Te Ao Maori Chapter. I draw the Panel's attention to this previous presentations because it will not be repeated at the Te Ao Maori hearing:

**Submitter****Submitter number****Environment Network Manawatu****356, X529****PRE-HEARING MEETINGS**

12. In addition to the general invitations issued to all parties in relation to pre-hearing meetings, Horizons also issued a specific invitation to maori affiliated groups to meet, at their place or ours, formally or informally, hui or meeting to discuss the POP.
13. Three groups have taken us up on this offer to date as set out below. Outcomes of the formal meeting have been circulated to you. At the participants request, informal meetings did not have minutes taken.

**Submitter****Submitter  
number****Informal or formal**

Huata Marae

**27****Formal – Report 20**

Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Inc

**238****Informal**

Aohanga Inc

**464****Informal****PRE-CIRCULATED EVIDENCE AND CAUCUSING**

14. Pre-circulated evidence from submitters has been provided to the panel. I have reviewed that evidence and held one caucusing meeting. The details of that evidence and meeting are contained in the Supplementary Recommendations report circulated on 5 August. This has been a constructive process and most matters raised by the experts have been able to be accommodated into a revised track changes version ('pink version') of Chapter 4, also

circulated on 5 August. Only a small number of matters remain not agreed between the experts, and more information may arise during the hearing that may resolve this.

#### **PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HEARING PANEL**

15. The chairperson of the hearing panel has very usefully provided some questions about the content of this Chapter. She raises some very good questions which we are currently working on answering and will be able to report back at the end of the hearing. We are particularly focusing on clarity and consistency of maori terms used and how and where they should be defined. In addition to this I believe that the responses to the expert evidence mentioned above go some way to answering questions 10 and 14.

#### **ISSUES RAISED IN SUBMISSIONS THAT MAY NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THE REPORT**

16. Some submitters who wish to be heard in this hearing have raised issues in their submissions which are not dealt with in Chapter 4 and are outside the scope of my planning report on this Chapter. The matters that I have identified as falling into this category from reading the submissions are the broader relationship between Horizons Regional Council and Maori, and consultation. I raise them here because they may arise at this hearing and to assist the panel as to where they may find more information on those important matters.
17. Relationship issues are only canvassed in a broad way in my report. This is because I have focussed on issues in submissions that can be given relief to by changes to the POP and not on the relationships between maori and the regional council which are best made outside the plan making process. Having said this I understand the concerns expressed by some submitters and that this may raise some questions for members of the hearing panel. I will ensure that the appropriate senior managers from Horizons are available to the hearing panel on the last day to answer any questions that arise. I also reiterate the commitment of these people to meet with submitters to discuss their concerns about the relationship between themselves and Horizons Regional Council at any time.
18. Consultation is not covered in my planning report in detail, because my report is focussed on submissions on Chapter 4. However this issue is covered in great detail in evidence provided

to the Overall Plan hearing. I draw your particular attention to the evidence of Bettina Anderson and to my comments in the planning report recommendation OVR 5 which outlines the consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the POP, with the public generally and with iwi in particular, in order to meet Horizons' obligations under the RMA and Local Government Act 2004. I also draw your attention to my comments above in paragraphs 12 and 13 relating to the pre-hearing process.

19. Thank you for this opportunity and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Helen Marr

7 August 2008