IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of Submissions and Further Submissions on the Proposed Hutt City District Plan

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Minute 20

Proposed District Plan – Hearing Stream 5 – Requests for modelling

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13 October 2026

Introduction

1. In Minute 14, we issued directions relating to the flood modelling underpinning the proposed flood hazard overlays in the Proposed District Plan.

2. Since that time, the first two steps in those directions have been addressed – being that:

    i. Hutt City Council (HCC) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) planning and modelling staff meet with a view of recommending all relevant parameters for the model re-run; and

    ii. all submitters with a relevant submission relating to the flood hazard overlays, effects of climate change, or related provisions in the PDP provide written comments on the recommended parameters for the Panel's consideration.

3. The third step in the process is for the Panel to issue final directions regarding the model re-run. Before we can do that, there is a need for additional clarification from the parties, being the purpose of this minute.

4. The specific matters we address below are:

    i. the sea level rise assumption for the Waiwhetū Stream catchment;

    ii. the approach for 30 Benmore Crescent; and

    iii. the detailed matters raised in the additional material provided by Mr Engel.

Context for the Panel's request for updated modelling

5. In the 23 September 2026 memorandum provided by Mr Davis for HCC, Mr Osborne for Tiaki Wai and Ms Arnesen for GWRC, the recommended sea level rise assumption for the six Tiaki Wai models and the GWRC model for Hutt River underpinning the flood hazard overlays is 1m. This differs from the notified assumption for each of seven these catchment-based models, being 1.59m.

6. For the GWRC model relating to the Waiwhetū Stream, however, the recommended sea level

rise assumption remains 1.59m. The reason for this has not been explained by the authors to the memo, and the Panel needs to better understand the rationale before issuing final directions on the model re-run.

7. Accordingly, we direct that Mr Davis, Mr Osborne and Ms Arnesen respond by way of memo no later than **Friday 23 October 2026** explaining why the greater allowance for sea level rise is recommended for the Waiwhetū Stream. We also require these experts to advise what, if any, implications adopting an inconsistent approach would have for properties in this stream catchment relative to the other catchments subject to other models.

8. The Panel will issue final directions on the model re-run upon receiving this memo.

30 Benmore Crescent

9. In his response to the Panel on the recommended modelling parameters, Mr Gibson confirmed the expectations of the submitters he represents[1] that the 2025 LIDAR data for 30 Benmore Crescent would be used to inform the flood model output for that site (as discussed in the evidence of Mr Phillip Wallace).

10. Mr Gibson's understanding reflects the Panel's request at the hearing that Mr Wallace liaise directly with HCC to enable that updated information to be shared. To be clear, the Panel confirms its expectation that the model re-run is recalibrated with this site-specific LIDAR for Benmore Crescent.

Additional material from Mr Engel

11. The Panel has considered the additional material provided by Mr Engel in response to Minute 14.

12. Mr Engel has recommended various validation and ground-truthing measures be adopted by the modelers following the model re-run.

13. In the main, the Panel considers these are matters for Mr Osborne to address in his post-

[1] Being Te Kārearea Ltd and Rosco Ice Cream Ltd

modelling quality assurance audit after the model is re-run and/or by Mr Davis in his written right of reply.

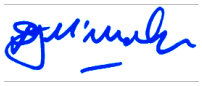
14. The Panel does not make any further directions in this respect.

15. Those points aside, we will otherwise be guided by the modelling experts as to the most appropriate parameters to be applied in the first instance.

From here

16. The Panel appreciates the attention to this matter already given by the parties, and will greatly benefit from the further scrutiny we have sought to be applied as set out above.

17. Parties can expect further communications from us on this matter following receipt of the additional memorandum we have requested above.



DJ McMahon

Independent Commissioner

Deputy Chair Hutt City Proposed District Plan Hearing Panel

12 October 2026