



5 January 2026

John Harrison

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe John,

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 24 November 2025, seeking information about the independent commissioner decision and hearing panel for resource consent RM230019. Specifically, you requested:

1. *Who is the Independent Commissioner who decided on public notification?*

ANSWER: The Independent Commissioner who made the decision on public notification is Jason Jones of Resource Management Group Limited.

2. *Is it to be full public notification or limited?*

ANSWER: The application will be fully publicly notified.

3. *Who was the Commissioner appointed by?*

ANSWER: The Commissioner was appointed by Jo Miller, Chief Executive of Hutt City Council.

4. *What are their qualifications for the position?*

ANSWER: Jason Jones is an accredited hearings commissioner under the Ministry for the Environment's Making Good Decisions programme. This accreditation ensures commissioners have the necessary skills and knowledge to make decisions under the Resource Management Act.

Further details about the programme and a list of accredited commissioners are available on the Ministry's website: [Making Good Decisions Programme – certification for RMA decision makers | Ministry for the Environment](#).

5. *Is she/he/they a HCC employee?*

ANSWER: No. Jason Jones is not an employee of Hutt City Council.

6. *Has the Independent hearing panel been appointed yet?*

ANSWER: An independent hearing panel has not yet been appointed for this consent.

7. *If so who are the members and will the independent commissioner chair the panel?*

ANSWER: As the panel has not been appointed, this question is not applicable.

8. *If not, when will they be appointed?*

ANSWER: The timing for appointing the panel has not yet been confirmed.

9. *When will all this information be formally released?*

ANSWER: The decision on public notification is already publicly available and can be accessed here: [30 Benmore Crescent | Hutt City Council](#). Other correspondence relating to similar matters will be available through the proactively released Benmore response, which you can access here: [18 December 2025 – Benmore Crescent Resource Recover Park Notification](#).

10. *When will submissions formally be requested?*

ANSWER: Submissions will be invited when the Council formally notifies the consent. It is likely to be publicly notified in mid-January 2026.

11. *Copies of all other correspondence around the decision to appoint a Commissioner and an Independent Hearing Panel, including any contracts, directions or any other relevant documents or correspondence.*

ANSWER: This correspondence is already included in a previous LGOIMA response for the Benmore consent, which has been proactively released.

You can access that response here: [18 December 2025 – Benmore Crescent Resource Recover Park Notification](#). We are not providing these emails again to avoid duplication.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [Office of the Ombudsman – Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases – Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rebekah van der Splinter'.

Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy