

WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
PROPOSED CHANGE 1 TO THE WELLINGTON REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

MINUTE 17

MATTERS RELATING TO HEARING STREAM 6 – INDIGENOUS ECOSYSTEMS

1. On 3 November 2023, Porirua City Council filed a document with the Hearings Advisors titled “Response to request for pre-hearing discussion on Implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)”. The document raises some concerns regarding the pre-hearing discussions for Hearing Stream 6 – Indigenous Biodiversity (HS6).
2. The pre-hearing discussions were convened by Wellington Regional Council Officers and were not directed by the panels. The Hearings Advisors informed us that the pre-hearing discussions were taking place on-line on 8 November 2023 from 1 – 3pm and the purpose was to discuss the Change 1 provisions in light of the NPS-IB prior to the Officers issuing their s 42A report. Officers advised submitters that participation in the pre-hearing discussions was voluntary and submitters could still respond to the HS6 provisions in the usual way (i.e. through evidence, legal submissions and hearing presentations).
3. The panels were not involved in the pre-hearing discussions, nor have we been privy to any information about what was discussed in that meeting.
4. Although Porirua City Council’s document of 3 November 2023 was provided to us outside of any process that we directed, we acknowledge receipt and ask the Hearings Advisors to upload it to the Hearings webpage for transparency. We will not consider it as part of our assessment of submissions or evidence for HS6, nor are we expecting other parties to send us their written feedback or comments on the pre-hearing discussions.
5. If parties wish to comment on the HS6 provisions, they can do so through submissions, evidence, and/or hearing statements/presentations. The specific timetabling dates for HS6 are set out below (and factor in some longer timeframes to account for the summer holiday period):

Notice of Hearing and S42A Report available, and submitters to advise if they wish to appear at hearing	By 5pm, Monday 4 December 2023
Regional council legal submissions and technical evidence (if any)	By 9am, Tuesday 12 December 2023
Submitter evidence and legal submissions	By 5pm, Monday 18 December 2023
Regional council rebuttal evidence	By 5pm, Thursday 18 January 2024
Hearing schedule available	By Tuesday, 23 January 2024
Hearing: HS6 - Indigenous Ecosystems (3 days reserved)	Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 February 2024

Dated: 15 November 2023



D Nightingale
Chair
P1S1 Panel and Freshwater Panel