

Otago Regional Council
Proposed Otago Policy Statement 2021 (Non-freshwater parts)

Minute 16

In response to Memorandum on Behalf of Otago Regional Council Resourcing Issues

1. By Memorandum dated 21 July, 2023 Counsel for Otago Regional Council (ORC) has amended the position adopted by ORC's counsel during the hearings in respect of certain resourcing aspects, such as direct funding commitments, which may be said to cut across other statutory processes laid down in the Local Government Act 2002.
2. A significant number of PORPS provisions are addressed in that Memorandum, with its contents setting out reasoning for the different approach now adopted by ORC, and the implications of those changes on the PORPS provisions.
3. In respect of those PORPS provisions affected, plainly other submitters may have relied on the ORC position as reflected either in the PORPS as notified, or on the ORC position as advanced by its counsel at the hearings. Others, such as Dunedin City Council and Kāi Tahu, may have differing views to express on some of the implications for the PORPS provisions than those expressed by counsel for ORC. That being so, opportunity must be given to all submitters to respond to this latest Memorandum by ORC's counsel.
4. The Hearings Panel is cognisant that many submitters and their counsel will be occupied in trying to meet deadlines set for the freshwater issues hearings. However, having acknowledged that workload, the Hearings Panel still faces the need to ensure that non-freshwater issues are able to be reported on in a timely way to enable co-ordination with reporting on the freshwater issues so as to achieve an integrated outcome.
5. The Hearings Panel is of the view that these issues can be addressed on the papers without need for further hearing. That can most satisfactorily be achieved by adopting and applying relevant parts of the same timetable as we have applied to the NPS IB implications for non freshwater issues.

Timetable

6. Accordingly the timetable in respect of non-freshwater issues will be as follows:
 - a. Submitters to have right to respond to the Memorandum on behalf of ORC dated 21 July, 2023 on resourcing issues by 15 September, 2023.
 - b. ORC to have opportunity of final response on those limited issues by 22 September, 2023.

Dated 24 July, 2023

Ron Crosby
Chair non freshwater Hearings Panel