

**PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL**  
**RC LU 5331**  
**ALL SAINTS CHURCH – 338 CHURCH STREET**  
**MINUTE 3 OF HEARING PANEL**

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## **Introduction**

1. Since issuing our previous minute on 11 November, parties to these proceedings have authorised their expert witnesses to conduct conferencing and produce joint witness statements. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of those involved.
2. In addition, the Council's section 42A RMA report was circulated on 4 December, and the applicant's expert evidence circulated on the 11<sup>th</sup>. All of this material is accessible on the Council website, with any expert evidence called by submitters being made available from later this week.
3. The general function of this Minute is to focus on the hearing process itself and the participation of parties during the proceedings.
4. In this respect, this minute covers the following two matters:
  - (a) our requests for submitters' presentations; and
  - (b) expert evidence presentations.
5. It is likely that we will issue additional minutes with further requests and instructions, before, during and/or after the hearing.

## **Submitter presentations**

6. The proposal received over 100 submissions, and several of those parties have indicated they wish to be heard. In order to accommodate all of those parties over 2-3 days we ask that submitters who are *not* calling experts to:
  - (a) liaise with other parties who have made similar submission points before the hearing commences if possible, and collaborate to present jointly at the hearing;
  - (b) target a maximum of 10-15 minutes for presentations; and
  - (c) be prepared to be somewhat flexible as to detailed timing and order of presentations at the hearing.
7. All parties will be given sufficient time to present, and we will not compel any party to forego their desire to present to us independently if that is their preference. Where parties are able to present jointly, however, it affords an opportunity to emphasise key shared points in an efficient manner, while avoid unnecessary duplication. Some parties may have anxiety about public speaking, and joint presentations also afford an option for those who may want to mitigate that anxiety.
8. In any case, all parties should be assured that our consideration of evidence and submissions will be focussed on the merits of what is presented – it's not a 'numbers game'.

9. We reiterate the point made in Minute 1 that the Panel will have read all submissions and evidence before the hearing starts. Presentations can be used to read submissions if that is a given party's preference – but we encourage that time to be used to emphasise particular points of detail or importance for our benefit, as opposed to a recital of material we will already be familiar with.
10. We also want to remind submitters that there will be no cross examination of witnesses or submitters from other parties at the hearing. It is likely, however, that we will ask questions of submitters to assist our understanding of all relevant issues – this is normal for hearings of this nature. We will, however, endeavour to keep the proceedings as informal as possible.
11. As a reminder for submitters, the link below is a good source of information about resource consent hearings and process:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/16376>

### **Expert evidence presentations at the hearing**

12. As with the submissions, we will have read all pre-circulated expert evidence in advance of the hearing; and again – as foreshadowed in Minute 1 – it will not be necessary for experts to read that material verbatim at the hearing.
13. Rather, we ask that experts commence their presentations with a brief 'highlights' summary of their evidence – either by drawing on specific excerpts and paragraph numbers in their evidence in chief, or through a separate printed summary document that can be circulated and read on the day. To be clear, highlights packages should not be a simple recital of any executive summary, which again we will have read in advance.
14. Experts should target 10 minutes for their summary presentations, though this is a guideline only.
15. It is likely we will have questions for the experts during and/or after those presentations.

### **Next Steps**

16. For any questions of clarification regarding the above, please email Ms Susana Figlioli at [Susana.figlioli@pncc.govt.nz](mailto:Susana.figlioli@pncc.govt.nz) in the first instance.

**14 December 2020**



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DJ McMahon  
Hearing Panel Chair

**For and on behalf of:**  
Commissioner J Black  
Commissioner H Lutz  
Commissioner DJ McMahon