

AUCKLAND UNITARY PLAN INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL

Te Paepae Kaiwawao Motuhake o te Mahere Kotahitanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

Important Hearings Information

The Independent Hearings Panel has reviewed the matters raised by submissions on the Unitary Plan and has developed a programme for the hearings, beginning in September 2014 and going through until around the end of April 2016.

A list of hearing topics and their proposed order and likely timing can be viewed on the hearing page of this website ([overview of schedule](#)).

A provisional schedule for the hearing process through to January 2015 can also be viewed on the hearing page of this website ([schedule](#)).

The schedule of hearings and pre-hearing meetings will be affected by a lot of things and the topics and times may change at short notice. It is important to check the website regularly for the latest information.

If you are appearing at a hearing session, or have been invited or required to attend a pre-hearing meeting, the panel office will contact you directly about times and any changes.

Hearing topics

On this webpage you will find a list of hearing topics and the likely order for hearing the topics and their likely timing. This list and the order are provisional and may change at any stage in the hearing process. This webpage will be kept updated.

The topics are based on the coding framework used by the council to summarise submissions. This reflects the structure of the Unitary Plan itself and is seen by the Panel as the best way to ensure the hearings result in an integrated and consistent approach across the whole plan.

Hearing order

The hearings will begin with matters that are considered by the Panel as being potentially outside its jurisdiction. This will provide certainty for submitters about the process right at the start. For matters that are determined to be out of scope, the Panel will let submitters know who they should contact to follow through on their concerns.

The order for hearing the topics is based on moving from the general to the specific. This means that Regional Policy Statement (RPS) matters (excluding the RPS schedules) will be heard first, followed by objectives and policies, before dealing with the regional and district rules, site specific issues, schedules and designations.

Please note that:

- Pre-hearing meetings may not follow exactly the same order as the hearing topics;
- There may be a significant gap between the pre-hearing meeting on a topic and the hearing on that topic;
- Some topics will need time between the pre-hearing and hearing for mediation and expert conference sessions.

Split panel

The full Panel will hear the out of scope matters and the RPS topics. After the RPS topics the Panel will split into two and begin hearing the topics concurrently. This is shown on the provisional programme as Panel A and Panel B. Membership of Panels A and B will not be fixed.

The Panel may decide to hear some other topics as a full panel, for example subdivision issues and definitions.

Hearing timeframes

The Panel is required to complete the hearings and report to council in July 2016. This is a short period of time to deal with the range of hearing topics in the Unitary Plan, and will require the Panel and the parties to work at pace.

A provisional hearing schedule from September 2014 through to January 2015 is now available on this webpage (insert link).

Please note that:

- These dates may change and you should check the website often;
- The Panel is unlikely to agree to adjournments of the events in this schedule;
- The Panel will not be holding pre-hearing meetings or hearings between 22 December 2014 and 9 January 2015;
- The Panel is unlikely to begin hearings on specific sites before the end of 2015.

A provisional schedule for the first half of 2015 will be published on this website in November 2014.

Please remember you will only be contacted directly about the pre-hearing meetings and the hearings if you made a submission or further submission on the hearing topic and said you wish to be heard (either on the submission form or by contacting the panel office).

You can find the details of confirmed pre-hearing meetings and hearings on this website under each hearing topic (see below). The documents relating to the hearing process will also be made available under each hearing topic.

Hearing information – Parties and Issues reports

All documents relating to the pre-hearing meetings and the hearing sessions will be placed on this website. Parties involved in a hearing will be sent a link to the website so they can go directly to the documents relating to their hearing session or pre-hearing meeting. Other arrangements will be made if you cannot access the website.

The main document for pre-hearing and hearing processes will be the **Parties and Issues report**. A Parties and Issues report will be prepared for each hearing topic and will set out the issues for the hearing and who the submitters and further submitters are. The report will be updated with the results of each pre-hearing step. These updates will include:

- A record of the pre-hearing meeting;
- A record of any further pre-hearing steps, including any agreements reached through mediation or expert conference;
- Notice of any independent evidence commissioned by the Panel.

The completed Parties and Issues report will then be presented to the hearing.

Evidence being presented by parties to the hearing will also be made available on the website.