

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of Submissions and Further
Submissions on the
Proposed Hutt City District
Plan

Minute 1

Proposed District Plan Process Update

Minute 1 – Proposed District Plan Process Update.

1. Since the Hutt City Proposed District Plan process commenced, the Council has been working towards scheduling hearings on submissions and further submissions. These were proposed to commence later this year.
2. Submissions closed on 2 May 2025, with further submissions closing on 24 July 2025. A panel of commissioners to hear submissions and further submissions has also been appointed. We appreciate the time and effort of submitters involved in the process, and the significant efforts of Council officers to date.
3. As many of you will be aware, the Minister of Resource Management Reform made a significant announcement on 16 July 2025 at the Local Government Conference. The government intends to direct Councils (through legislative change) to stop further work on plan changes and plan reviews unless a hearing process has commenced. This is stated to be for the purpose to avoid processes that may need to be changed with the intended introduction of replacement legislation to the Resource Management Act 1991 in 2026 and/or influenced by intended changes to national direction that is occurring concurrently.
4. A link to Minister Bishop's announcement is here. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-stop-council-plan-changes> . This link also includes a fact sheet from the Ministry for the Environment. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-07/Plan%20Stop%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>
5. It is understood that an amendment to the Resource Management Act 1991 to implement this direction is in the process of being drafted. This will include guidance to Councils on what matters may be able to be progressed through hearings if an exemption is granted by the Minister. Natural Hazards and Urban intensification are matters that have been specifically mentioned as potential exemption topics. We understand that the Amendment Bill is likely to be considered in the house later in August.
6. This announcement obviously has significant implications for the Hutt City Council Proposed District Plan hearings process. Once the Amendment Bill, and associated guidance, has been enacted, Council will consider the next steps on the plan process. This will include consideration of the consequences of progressing parts of the proposed plan in isolation from other parts. Those options, and any exemption application will need to be considered at a future meeting of Council.

7. Until the amendment legislation is available and there has been full consideration of the options by Council, any hearings on the proposed district plan are delayed. We will let you know next steps in due course when further clarification is at hand.
8. Should there be any queries in the interim can they be directed to The District Plan team at Council at District.Plan@huttcity.govt.nz .



Lindsay Daysh

Chair

For the Hutt City Proposed District Plan Hearings Panel

Dated 5 August 2025