

# Independent Hearings Panel

## Christchurch Replacement District Plan

*Te paepae motuhake o te mahere whakahou a rohe o Ōtautahi*

### PRESS RELEASE

**FROM: SIR JOHN HANSEN, CHAIR  
REPLACEMENT CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN  
INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL**

**RE: ISSUING OF “STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS” DECISION**

The Independent Hearings Panel appointed to hear and decide the provisions that will comprise the Christchurch Replacement District Plan (“**Replacement Plan**”) has issued the first of its decisions today. That decision focuses on the Strategic Directions and Strategic Outcomes of the Replacement Plan. These are the over-arching objectives that will inform the preparation of the rest of the Replacement Plan, and its subsequent implementation and administration. The objectives set the overarching direction for planning framework for the rebuild and recovery of Christchurch following the devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011.

The Independent Hearings Panel was established under the Canterbury Earthquake (Christchurch Replacement District Plan) Order 2014. It is chaired by retired High Court Judge, Hon. Sir John Hansen and comprises an additional five members; Judge John Hassan, Dr Philip Mitchell, Sarah Dawson, Jane Huria and John Sax.

Today’s decision is the first on the “Stage One” Replacement Plan proposals that were publically notified by the Christchurch City Council in August 2014. The hearings were held in December 2014 and January 2015. The final “Stage Two” proposals for the Replacement District Plan will be publically notified later in 2015 with respective hearings to follow.

The Chair has noted: “The Independent Hearings Panel faces a huge job over the next twelve months as it considers the Christchurch City Council’s Replacement District Plan. It is important that we do a thorough job, as the Replacement Plan is, in effect, the planning blueprint that will guide the recovery and rebuild of Christchurch.”

“We are grateful for the fact that despite the many different views that individuals and organisations expressed in their submissions, by the time the hearings and associated mediation sessions ended there was general agreement on most matters. That was a very positive outcome, and at the end of the day, we are satisfied that the Strategic Directions provisions we have finally approved will result in a Replacement Plan that will:

- Be easy to read and understand;
- Minimise the amount of planning “red tape”;
- Facilitate a speedy, high quality recovery and rebuild of Christchurch; and
- Ensure that Christchurch is a place where people will wish to live, invest work and visit now and in the future.”

For any further information, please visit the Independent Secretariat website <http://www.chchplan.ihp.govt.nz/Pages/IndependentHearingsPanel-ChristchurchReplacementDistrictPlan.aspx> or contact:

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