Independent Hearings Panel

Christchurch Replacement District Plan

Te paepae motuhake o te mahere whakahou a rohe o Ōtautahi

IN THE MATTER OF the Canterbury Earthquake (Christchurch Replacement District Plan) Order 2014

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Clauses 4 and 7 of Schedule 3 to the Order

Date: 22 May 2015

MINUTE
Directions to parties regarding length and repetition in evidence

---

[1] The Panel is becoming increasingly concerned about the length and degree of repetition apparent in the written statements of evidence that are being filed in relation to the hearings (particularly expert witnesses), and in the summaries that are being presented at the hearings. As parties are well aware, the hearing process is under tight time constraints and the workload of the Panel is significant in order to meet the requirements of the Order and our terms of reference.

[2] The Panel reminds parties that it has the powers under the Order to regulate its procedures and to limit the time for presentations of evidence. We also have the power to direct a submitter not to present the whole or part of any submission if all or part of it is irrelevant or not in dispute. We wish to ensure that the procedures for the hearings are appropriate and fair in the circumstances.

[3] Mindful of that, we caution all parties that if they do not take immediate steps to ensure that statements of evidence are relevant, succinct and avoid repetition, we will have to make orders restricting the length of evidence and further limiting presentation time.

[4] In the meantime we direct:

(a) Statements of evidence are to avoid repetition.

(b) If parties reach agreement they must notify the Secretariat and enquire whether the Panel has questions. In the event there are no questions, the parties should consider whether it is necessary to attend.

(c) Where parties seek to rely on evidence called in previous hearings, do not repeat the evidence but provide the Panel with the cross-references to statements of evidence (author, date and paragraph number) or the relevant page and line references in the transcript.

The Honourable Sir John Hansen
Chair