

**IN THE MATTER OF
AND**

the Resource Management Act 1991

IN THE MATTER OF

Waikato IPIs – Hamilton CC PC12,
Waipā DC PC26 & Waikato DC Var 3

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991
DIRECTION #17
INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL**

Purpose: The purpose of Direction #17 is to note the release and imminent gazettal of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPSIB).

Introduction

1. The NPSIB has been released and its gazettal is anticipated later in July 2023, becoming operative in August 2023.
2. As the Waikato IPIs are still under active consideration, with hearings not yet completed, the Panel will need to take the NPSIB into account in formulating its recommendations.
3. The Panel is mindful that:
 - (a) the hearing of Hamilton City Council's Plan Change 12 has been vacated and the timetable suspended for 20 working days;
 - (b) the substantive hearing of Waikato District's Variation 3 is due to commence on Wednesday, 26 July 2023 and all evidence with the exception of rebuttal evidence has already been exchanged; and
 - (c) Waipā District's substantive hearing is complete except for the financial contribution element to be heard in September.
4. The Panel invites an indication from the councils and submitters as to how they would prefer to manage this issue. The default option is simply to address the NPSIB as part of evidence and submissions in due course at the substantive hearings, but some parties might consider an NPSIB-focussed session more appropriate. As SNA's, for example, are already a qualifying matter through s.6 RMA, the Panel does not anticipate that this will require separate hearings.
5. For Waipā however, where a hearing on these issues has already been held, if parties consider further evidence or submissions are required, it may be that this could be accommodated within the time set aside for the remaining financial contribution portion of the hearing in September.
6. The Panel therefore issues the following direction:
 - (a) All parties with an interest in this matter are invited to provide their written comments by Wednesday, 19 July 2023;
 - (b) The Panel will then confer and issue a Minute indicating its thinking.

7. Any queries or correspondence related to this Direction should be sent through to the Hearing Coordinator, Steve Rice at steve@riceres.co.nz .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

David Hill (Chairperson)
Independent Hearing Panel

11 July 2023