

**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 #18

INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

Purpose: The purpose of Direction #18 is to confirm directions regarding the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPSIB).

Introduction

1. The NPSIB has been released and becomes operative on 4 August 2023.
2. By Direction #17 the Panel sought comment from Council(s) and submitters as to how to address that matter as all Waikato IPI hearings are still live.
3. All respondents agreed that the Panel must take the NPSIB into account and made the following suggestions:
 - (a) Where the matter of SNAs has already been heard (as per Waipā District), to the extent it is necessary the matter can be further addressed as part of the deferred Financial Contributions September hearing;
 - (b) Where the substantive hearing is imminent (as per Waikato District), the matter can be addressed in legal submissions and, if necessary, separately timetabled for a later date; and
 - (c) Where the substantive hearing is yet to occur and is not imminent (as Per Hamilton City) the matter can be incorporated into the substantive hearing and relevant report and evidence exchange directed.
4. It was largely common ground that as s.6(c) matters (including SNAs) are addressed as a qualifying matter under the IPI, the requirement for substantial new evidence was unlikely and expert ecological and planning overviews would probably be sufficient.
5. Panel therefore issues the following direction:
 - (a) For Waipā District's PC26, the timetable set out in Direction #16 will apply to any party wanting to address the NPSIB;
 - (b) For Waikato District's Variation 3, the matter should be addressed at the hearing and the Panel will then determine what further steps, if any, are required.
 - (c) For Hamilton City's PC12, a timetable will be set down once the matter of hearing discussed in Direction #17 is determined.
6. 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

24 July 2023