

**For the attention of the Hearing Panel – Timaru Proposed District Plan Hearing E –
response to questions**

Kia ora koutou,

As requested by the Hearing Panel during Hearing E on Monday 10th February, I referred the Panel's questions to our Senior Archaeologist who has provided the following response:

1. Can you provide examples of occasions where archaeological or Wahi tapu material has been accidentally discovered in a heavily modified area, particularly in rural areas or in coastal areas?

- a. It is common for archaeological material, particularly from archaeological sites of Māori origin, to be encountered during earthworks in coastal and rural areas, regardless of the suspected extent of previous land modification. Recently works being carried out in a coastal area, within a footprint previously built on, encountered archaeological material during earthworks. When the material was identified as potentially archaeological, works stopped, and once the discovery was confirmed by an archaeologist, an authority was applied for and granted allowing the works to continue.

2. How often do discoveries in heavily modified areas get reported?

- a. This metric is not recorded, although anecdotally such discoveries do occur and are reported, as exemplified in the answer to Question 1.

3. Can an archaeological authority cover numerous earthworks activities in a confined area?

- a. An archaeological authority can cover any works specified within any area specified. An application for a general authority - however extensive - must be able to describe the impact to each known or potential archaeological site under application, meaning that any earthworks activities must be able to be sufficiently described at the time of application.

4. When an archaeological assessment has been prepared is it informed by cultural information or a cultural assessment, especially when triggered by a SASM?

- a. An archaeological assessment will draw on many sources to determine either the likelihood of archaeology being present within a project area, or the nature of the archaeology that is present. Such sources will include published cultural information such as histories, records, cultural mapping, and the cultural values of nearby archaeological, cultural, and historical sites. An assessment that then becomes part of an authority application must also take into account any cultural information that was generated after the initial assessment preparation, such as information provided during consultation between the applicant and mana whenua or as part of a commissioned cultural values assessment.

5. Can an ADP 'avoid' an adverse effect – specifically relating to earthworks policy EW-P3 which states 'Require accidental discovery protocols to ensure land disturbance avoids or mitigates adverse effects on sensitive material'

- a. An ADP cannot prevent the discovery of sensitive material, but directs the actions taken after that discovery. As such, an ADP would be most accurately described as mitigating adverse effects on sensitive material.

The Hearing Panel also requested a copy of the revised ADP as agreed between Ms White and I. I believe Ms White has already provided this to the Panel, but I have also attached a copy to this response.

Ngā mihi nui,

Arlene

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