

IN THE MATTER OF Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the hearing of submissions in relation to
the Proposed Timaru District Plan

MINUTE 50
AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL DIRECTION

[1] The Panel¹ is aware of a number of amendments to national direction (National Policy Statements and Standards) that are relevant to the determination of District Plans, gazetted on 18 December 2025.² The changes come into effect on 15 January 2026.

[2] The Panel has concluded hearings on the Proposed Timaru District Plan and is in the process of completing deliberations and the recording of our Decisions.

[3] The Panel has issued directions³ as to its intention to circulate a draft Decision Report and Provisions for technical review by Council s42A authors by 30 January 2026, with technical feedback to be received by 20 February 2026. Submitters would then have an opportunity to provide any technical feedback by 27 February 2026. It is our intention to issue our Final Decision by 22 March 2026.

[4] Prior to concluding our deliberations, the Panel requests that the Council:

- (a) provide legal submissions addressing the impact, if any, of the gazetted changes to the relevant national directions to our decision-making process.
- (b) update the Panel if there are any material changes to the s42A author recommendations because of the amendments to national directions.

¹ The Timaru District Council ("the Council") appointed Cindy Robinson (Chairperson), Ros Day-Cleavin, Councillor Stacey Scott, Jane Whyte, Megan McKay, and Raewyn Solomon ("the Panel") to hear submissions and further submissions, and evidence to make decisions on the Timaru Proposed District Plan ("the Proposed Plan") pursuant to Section 34A(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA"). Our delegation includes all related procedural powers to conduct those hearings.

² <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/201125-Full-Public-Notice-for-national-direction.pdf>

³ Minute 38

- (c) advise the Panel if the amendments affect the Council's timeline for making the plan operative.

[5] Following receipt of a response from the Council we will then issue further directions to allow an opportunity for submitters to provide any legal submissions or comment on the process to address any national direction.

[6] We direct Council to provide a response on or before **Tuesday 20TH January 2026**.

[7] The timetable for submitter responses will be determined once we receive the Council's response.

Dated this 22nd December 2025.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C E Robinson', with a long, flowing horizontal stroke extending to the right.

C E ROBINSON - CHAIR ON BEHALF OF THE HEARINGS PANEL