



# AGENDA

## Environmental Services Committee Meeting Tuesday, 15 April 2025

**Date** Tuesday, 15 April 2025

**Time** 9:30 am

**Location** Council Chamber  
District Council Building  
King George Place  
Timaru

**File Reference** 1752316

## **Timaru District Council**

**Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Environmental Services Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Tuesday 15 April 2025, at 9:30 am.**

### **Environmental Services Committee Members**

Michelle Pye (Chairperson), Owen Jackson (Deputy Chairperson), Sally Parker, Gavin Oliver, Stu Piddington, Allan Booth, Peter Burt, Stacey Scott, Scott Shannon, Tewera King (Mana Whenua) and Mayor Nigel Bowen

Quorum – no less than 5 members

### **Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968**

Committee members are reminded that if you have a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda, then you must declare this interest and refrain from discussing or voting on this item, and are advised to withdraw from the meeting table.

Paul Cooper

**Group Manager Environmental Services**

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- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Public Forum**
- 3 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**
- 4 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

## **6 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **6.1 Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2025**

**Author:** Jessica Kavanaugh, Team Leader Governance

#### **Recommendation**

That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2025**



# **MINUTES**

## **Environmental Services Committee Meeting Tuesday, 18 February 2025**

**Ref: 1752316**

**Minutes of Timaru District Council  
Environmental Services Committee Meeting  
Held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru  
on Tuesday, 18 February 2025 at 9:30 am**

**Present:** Cllr Michelle Pye (Chairperson), Cllr Owen Jackson (Deputy Chairperson), Cllr Sally Parker, Cllr Gavin Oliver, Cllr Stu Piddington, Cllr Allan Booth, Cllr Peter Burt, Cllr Stacey Scott, Cllr Scott Shannon, Mayor Nigel Bowen.

**In Attendance:** **Community Board Members:** Rosie Woods (Geraldine Community Board)

**Officers:** Nigel Trainor (Chief Executive), Paul Cooper (Group Manager Environmental Services), Stephen Doran (Group Manager Corporate and Communications), Justin Bagust (Chief Information Officer), Andrea Rankin (Chief Financial Officer), Rosie Oliver (Development Manager), Nicole Timney (Manager of Property Services and Client Representative), Andrew Dixon (Group Manager Infrastructure), Suzy Ratahi (Land Transport Manager), Aaron Hakkaart (Planning Manager - District Plan Review), Claire Copeland (Group Coordinator Environmental Services - *Minutes*), Jessica Kavanaugh (Team Leader Governance - *Tech*), Maddison Gourlay (Marketing and Communications Advisor - *Tech*).

## **1 Apologies**

### **1.1 Apologies received**

Apologies were received from Raewyn Hessel (Pleasant Point Community Board) and Alison Talbot (Temuka Community Board).

## **Resolution 2025/1**

Moved: Cllr Scott Shannon

Seconded: Mayor Nigel Bowen

**Carried**

## **2 Public Forum**

There were no public forum items.

## **3 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

No items of urgent business were received.

## **4 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**

- Cllr Stu Piddington requested an update on the liquor license for Frazer Park.
- Cllr Michelle Pye noted with the timing of this meeting and the Proposed District Plan (PDP) Hearings that the committee receive a verbal update.



## **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

- The following members expressed a conflict of interest regarding liquor licensing, Mayor Nigel Bowen, Cllr Peter Burt, Cllr Gavin Oliver and Cllr Owen Jackson.
- Cllr Shannon Scott expressed a conflict of interest regarding the PDP Hearings.

## **6 Chairperson's Report**

### **6.1 Chairpersons Report – Cllr Michelle Pye**

Cllr Pye noted it was a busy end to the year with normal Council and Committee meetings and citizenship ceremonies. The Chairperson attended an LGNZ Conference and Rural and Provincial Sector meeting in Wellington which had some good sessions on Water reform and rates capping, the Chair had a tour of the new organic facility at the Redruth Resource Centre. The Chairperson attended the launch of the Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan which is part of the Mayoral forum and TDC have supported this with both time and money. The main attraction of this combined plan is to work together and not duplicate work across Canterbury especially around gathering data. The Chairperson noted it was nice to have a break before getting back into normal Council business in mid-January.

Chairperson Cllr Pye along with Cllr Deputy Chair Jackson, of this committee met with Environmental Services Group Manager and Group Coordinator to discuss a meeting plan for the year ahead.

Unfortunately Cllr Pye was an apology for our first OTOP meeting of the year due to a work commitment. Cllr Pye recently visited the Canterbury Enviro Solutions site at Taiko, the Te Aitarakihi Community Garden on Bridge Street and acknowledged "the fantastic work Joy and her small team of helpers do there".

Finally last night along with some other councillors Cllr Pye joined an online LGNZ meeting with the new Minister of the South Island Minister James Meager. This was not only a good opportunity to hear about priorities from the Minister but also get an insight through Q&A of the issues that are priorities for our councillors.

### **Resolution 2025/2**

Moved: Chairperson Michelle Pye

Seconded: Cllr Stacey Scott

**Carried**

### **6.2 Chairpersons report format**

Mayor Bowen suggested that going forward the Chairpersons report be presented to the committee in the standard format used by the 'Mayor and Chief Executive' in the Council agenda, listing the events they have attended and the date. This is to be implemented by the governance team for the next meeting.

## **7 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2024**

#### **Resolution 2025/3**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Scott Shannon

That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

**Carried**

## **8 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

No items of urgent business were received.

## **9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

### **9.1 Frazer Park Liquor Licence**

Cllr Stu Piddington requested an update on the liquor licence for Frazer Park. Through the Chair Group Manager Environmental Services spoke to this.

When the original resource consent for the Frazer Park development was applied for it was written and a guarantee was given in writing that the licencing operation would not change (what so ever) which for all intent and purpose was a Club Licence for its members and guests. What transpired was the business activity changed and the original licence was no longer fit for purpose and that a full on-licence and the ability to host events was desired. To move forward with a liquor licence application, the building must have a building code of compliance and be signed off by the Planning unit that the activity is permitted in that location; effectively under the RMA this is a new consent.

Subsequently, the Frazer Park Trust have applied for a new resource consent, and a consultant planner for the Timaru District Council (TDC) is processing this application. TDC officers have given what advice we can as a regulator, on how best to present the application to give it the best chance of approval. The committee together with TDC have engaged a noise/acoustic specialist for a report.

Cllr Burt asked if the application would be notified or non-notified, to which the Group Manager Environmental Services, said this would is not yet known, the decision on whether it should be or not be is based on an assessment by the technical officer, once all the information is received.

It was briefly discussed what the on-licence (if approved) would enable them to do.

### **9.2 Update on the District Plan Review**

The Planning Manager - District Plan Review, gave a verbal update on the Proposed District Plan, it is progressing well, having completed 4 of the 7 planned Hearings, the third hearing was held in November 2024, the fourth took place last week over three days the committee heard from 27

submitters with 180 submissions received in total. The reports for the fourth hearing covered sites and areas of significance to Māori, historic heritage and infrastructure and transport and had the most engagement in the hearing process so far. The fifth hearing is scheduled for the end of April beginning of May where the committee will be considering other district wide matters, eg signs, natural hazards and risks, designations, earth works surface water activities and the like. The sixth hearing is scheduled for July 2025 this will be the growth hearing with a specific focus on rezoning for growth in the district, and financial contributions, which will be a twostep process where officers consider and collate the feedback ahead of the hearing to allow for deeper consideration by the committee. There is likely to be a hearing in September to tidy things up and conclude the hearings process.

Clr Burt asked about “signs” to be considered in the fifth hearing, The Planning Manager - District Plan Review, noted this is the ‘signs chapter’ for the district that needs to be heard, which looks at what provisions have been considered for onsite signage and provides for the roading technical signs. Clr Burt asked if the chapter changes would the requirement be retrospective. It was confirmed that existing rights are permitted as long as the sign was established under the rules of the RMA.

## **10 Public Forum Items Requiring Consideration**

There were no public forum items for consideration.

**The Meeting closed at 9.47am**

.....  
**Clr Michelle Pye**  
**Chairperson**

## 7 Schedules of Functions Attended

### 7.1 Schedule of Functions Attended by the Chairperson

**Author:** Jessica Kavanaugh, Team Leader Governance

**Authoriser:** Stephen Doran, Group Manager Corporate and Communications

#### Recommendation

That the Schedule of Functions Attended by the Chairperson be received and noted.

#### Functions Attended by the Chairperson for the Period 18 February 2025 and 31 March 2025.

<i>25 February 2025</i>	Local Water Done Well Steering Group Meeting
<i>25 February 2025</i>	Council Annual Plan Workshop
<i>28 February 2025</i>	Opening of Old Library Building at Winchester Show Grounds
<i>1 March 2025</i>	Temuka and Geraldine A&P Show
<i>3 March 2025</i>	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
<i>4 March 2025</i>	Tenders and Procurement Committee Meeting
	People and Performance Committee Meeting
	Citizenship Ceremony
	Council Annual Plan Workshop
	Council Meeting
<i>5 March 2025</i>	South Canterbury Education Network Hui
<i>9 March 2025</i>	Waitarakao Strategic Plan Launch
<i>17 March 2025</i>	Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Meeting
	Temuka Community Board Meeting
<i>18 March 2025</i>	Local Water Done Well Steering Group Meeting
	Annual Plan Workshop
	Pleasant Point Community Board Meeting

Meetings were also held with various ratepayers, businesses and/or residents on a range of matters.

#### Attachments

Nil

## 8 Reports

### 8.1 Actions Register Update

**Author:** Jessica Kavanaugh, Team Leader Governance

**Authoriser:** Stephen Doran, Group Manager Corporate and Communications

#### Recommendation

That the Environmental Services Committee receives and notes the updates to the Actions Register.

#### Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Environmental Services Committee with an update on the status of the action requests raised by Councillors at previous Committee meetings.

#### Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is assessed to be of low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as there is no impact on the service provision, no decision to transfer ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from Council, and no deviation from the Long Term Plan.

#### Discussion

- 3 The actions register is a record of actions requested by Councillors. It includes a status and comments section to update the Environmental Services Committee on the progress of each item.
- 4 There is currently 1 item on the actions register.
- 5 This item is marked as completed and is proposed to be marked as removed at the next meeting.

#### Attachments

1. **Environmental Services Committee Actions Required** [↓](#) 

Information Requested from Councillors (Environmental Services Committee)

Key ■ = Completed, for removal ■ = 60+ Days ■ = 90+ Days ■ = Removed

Information Requested	Change to Chairpersons Report Format		
Date Raised:	18 February 2025	Status:	Completed
Issue Owner		Completed Date:	
<p><b>Background:</b> Mayor Bowen suggested that going forward the Chairpersons report be presented to the committee in the standard format used by the ‘Mayor and Chief Executive’ in the Council agenda, listing the events they have attended and the date. This is to be implemented by the governance team for the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> The change has been communicated to the Chair and Deputy Chair through the governance team and will be adopted for the 15 April 2025 meeting agenda.</p>			

## 8.2 Resource Management Reform Update

**Author:** Aaron Hakkaart, Planning Manager - District Plan Review

**Authoriser:** Paul Cooper, Group Manager Environmental Services

### Recommendation

That the Environmental Services Committee received and note the Resource Management Reform Update.

### Purpose of Report

- 1 The Government has recently made a further announcement on the Resource Management Reform. The key elements of this announcement focused on the shape of the replacement legislation as agreed by Cabinet. This paper outlines the key changes outlined in the announcement and provides an analysis of the impact on this announcement on Council's current resource management functions with a specific reference to the Proposed District Plan (PDP) which is currently in the hearings phase of the process. This information will provide Elected Members with a high-level framework to evaluate impact on the current District Plan Review (DPR) process considering the reforms intended direction of travel.

### Assessment of Significance

- 2 This report provides information on Government reform and is yet to be introduced to the House. The information is therefore, not considered to be significant in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

### Discussion

#### 3 Reform Background

- 4 Governments Resource Management Reforms are divided into three phases:

4.1 Phase 1 – repeal the Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act.

4.2 Phase 2 – development of a Fast-Track Approvals Act (2A) and targeted amendments to the RMA (2B).

4.3 Phase 3 – replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with two new Acts.

- 5 Phase 1 and 2A are now complete.

#### Phase 2B

- 6 Phase 2B is the progression of targeted legislative amendments to the RMA. It has so far involved two RMA Amendment Bills. The first was passed into law on 23 October 2024. The second was introduced into Parliament on 9 December 2024.

- 7 The Bill amends the RMA in relation to infrastructure and energy, housing growth, farming and the primary sector, natural hazards and emergencies as well as system improvements.

- 8 The below table outlines these changes and their application to Timaru District Council:

Phase 2B Proposed Changes	
Proposed Change	Further Detail/ Application to Timaru District Council
<i>Option for councils to opt out of Medium Density Residential Standards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows for councils to opt out, retain or alter these standards in their district plan.</li> <li>Because Timaru District Council is a Tier 2 Council, there is already no requirement for inclusion of these standards.</li> </ul>
<i>Changes to resource consent compliance and enforcement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councils will be able to consider consent applicant's prior conduct. Histories of ongoing, significant, or repeated non-compliance would allow an application to be declined.</li> <li>Issuing abatement notices will be simplified.</li> <li>These changes relate directly to the administration of a proposed district plan rather than the drafting of its provisions.</li> </ul>
<i>Changes to how resource consents are processed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streamlining consent granting by reducing required information for grants proportionately to the significance of the activity.</li> <li>Allowing decisions to be made without hearings where sufficient information has been offered.</li> <li>Maximum processing timeframes of one year.</li> <li>35-year default durations for consents related to renewable energy or defined long living infrastructure.</li> <li>This relates to the application of a district plan and the issuing of consents rather than the drafting of a plan's provisions.</li> </ul>
<i>Amendments to council obligations under section 70</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharges with significant adverse effects on aquatic life will be permitted in certain situations.</li> <li>This falls under regional council jurisdiction rather than district council planning.</li> </ul>
<i>Rules relating to natural hazards will have immediate legal effect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PDP was notified prior to the Bill and will remain unaffected.</li> </ul>
<i>Refusal of resource consents due to natural hazard risk</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where an activity would create a new risk from natural hazards, the land use consent could be refused.</li> <li>This is related to the administration of a district plan rather than the drafting of its provisions.</li> </ul>
<i>Extend powers for the Governor General</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new provision will allow for the Governor General to make emergency response regulations for the purpose of reacting to a natural hazard event or emergency.</li> <li>This would not directly influence district planning, rather it would impact administration powers in certain circumstances.</li> </ul>



<i>Changes to the classification of heritage structures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A streamlined process will be introduced which will enable councils and the Minister to list and delist heritage buildings in a district plan.</li> <li>• The PDP was notified prior to the Bill and will remain unaffected.</li> </ul>
<i>Clarifying the role of the RMA in relation to fishing activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the extent that councils can use the RMA to control fishing for biodiversity protection.</li> <li>• Relevant only to regional council functions.</li> </ul>
<i>Creation of an approval pathway for freshwater planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing industry-wide farm plan programmes into the freshwater farm plan system.</li> <li>• Relevant only to regional council functions.</li> </ul>
<i>Changing coastal permits/ requirements for marine aquaculture farms</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling the alteration or cancellation of consent conditions for marine aquaculture farms.</li> <li>• Relevant only to regional council functions.</li> </ul>

9 These proposals are not directly relevant to the PDP. The first reading occurred on 17 December 2024. A six month Select Committee reading process is now underway, pushing the implementation date into mid – late 2025.

### Phase 3

10 Phase 3 will see the replacement of the RMA with two new Acts. On 24 March 2025 additional information on this stage of the reform was released by the Hon Chris Bishop.

11 Last year Government engaged an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) to develop a blueprint for reform. The EAG delivered this blueprint earlier this year. Cabinet has agreed that the EAG has delivered a blueprint that provides a workable basis for a new planning system. Key features of the new system include:

11.1 Two Acts: a Planning Act focussed on regulating the use, development and enjoyment of land, along with a Natural Environment focused on the use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

11.2 A narrowed approach to effects management: The new system will be based on the economic concept of “externalities”. Effects that are borne solely by the party undertaking the activity will not be controlled by the new system (for example, interior building layouts or exterior aspects of buildings that have no impact on neighbouring properties such as the size and configuration of apartments, the provision of balconies, and the configuration of outdoor open spaces for a private dwelling). Matters such as effects on trade competition will be excluded.

11.3 Property Rights: Both Acts will include starting presumptions that a land use is enabled, unless there is a significant enough impact on either the ability of others to use their own land or on the natural environment. This will reduce the scope of effects being regulated and enable more activities to take place as of right. There will be clear protection for lawfully established existing use rights, including the potential for the reasonable expansion of existing activities over time where the site is ‘zoned or owned’. There will be a requirement for regulatory justification reports if departing from approaches to regulation standardised at the national level. Compensation may happen for regulatory takings in some circumstances. There will be an expansion in the range of permitted activities.

- 11.4 Simplified National Direction: One set of national policy direction under each Act will simplify, streamline, and direct local government plans and decision-making in the system. Direction under the Natural Environment Act will cover freshwater, indigenous biodiversity and coastal policy. Direction under the new Planning Act will cover urban development, infrastructure (including renewable energy) and natural hazards.
- 11.5 Environmental limits: A clearer legislative basis for setting environmental limits for our natural environment will provide more certainty around where development can and should be enabled, whilst protecting the environment.
- 11.6 Greater use of standardisation: Nationally set standards, including standardised land use zones, will provide significant system benefits and efficiencies. The new legislation will provide for greater standardisation, while still maintaining local decision making over the things that matter.
- 11.7 Spatial Plans: Each region will be required to have a spatial plan, focused on identifying sufficient future urban development areas, development areas that are being prioritised for public investment and existing and planned infrastructure corridors and strategic sites.
- 11.8 Streamlining of council plans: A combined plan will include a spatial planning chapter, an environment chapter and planning chapters (one per territorial authority district).
- 11.9 Strengthening environmental compliance monitoring and enforcement: To safeguard the environment, a national compliance regulator with a regional presence will be established – taking over a function currently done by regional councils.
- 12 Government intends to commence work immediately on working through the policy detail to allow for the introduction of the two new Acts into the House before the end of the year.

What transition to the new system is anticipated to look like

- 13 To enable the fastest possible transition, the EAG panel recommend an approach that deems existing district plans to be part of a combined district plans under the Planning Act – and regional plans to be natural environment plans and commences key aspects of the Acts – as soon as practicable after enactment. The intent of this approach is to enable decision-making and planning consents and permits to begin under the new legislative framework as soon as possible without affecting access to natural justice.
- 14 Additionally, the EAG recommended that consent applications that have been lodged and plan changes or reviews that have been notified under the RMA should be allowed to continue under the RMA until they have finished, and all appeals and objections have been resolved. The recommendations would mean that the PDP would be deemed a District Plan under the new Acts, if completed.
- 15 It is recommended that part of RPSs should be switched off, with the ability to seek approval of the minister to continue elements of those documents where there is a real need. Key concepts such as the more-than-minor adverse-effects threshold, activity categories, notification, decision-making criteria, and scope of the system commence as soon as practicable after enactment.
- 16 New plan change process improvements, including the evaluation report and justification reports requirements, commence as soon as practicable after enactment. Any changes in the functions of local authorities that affects who is responsible for the development or implementation of that function commences on the development of the spatial plan, or

regulatory plans. This would apply to ONFLs (Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes), SNAs (Significant Natural Areas), contaminated land and natural hazards.

- 17 The ability to turn off rules was considered but deemed to be a resource intensive process. However, a process is recommended to be provided to review resource consents to strike out consent conditions that may no longer be appropriate. Additionally, a recommendation is made to amend the RMA to remove existing statutory requirements that would require rework on enactment of the replacement legislation. This would include requirements such as plan reviews or the still mandatory implementation of the national planning standards.

What are the statutory requirements of the existing system that need to be complied

- 18 Timaru District Council currently has a legal obligation to follow a regulatory process when developing a new district plan. The council is required to act in accordance with the RMA. The DPR process must be completed under section 79(1) of the RMA. Section 79 requires that local authorities must review the provisions of their district plans at least every ten years to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. This review process requires an assessment of whether there are any changes that need to be made to the district plan based on current environmental and community needs. The objective is to create a current and relevant plan using a process that allows the community to exercise their right to provide feedback on its developments.
- 19 The Council's legal obligation under section 79(1) to regularly review and update its district plan is crucial. This process ensures the plan remains relevant and aligned with current higher-level guidance such as national policy and regional policy statement. This also allows the community to have a meaningful opportunity to engage and contribute. By doing so, the Council upholds its responsibility to adhere to the public participatory principles of the RMA. The DPR process, and PDP upholds Councils obligations under the RMA. To stop the process would mean it would go back to the old plan, to pause would mean the PDP would have little effect and result in a scenario where the outcomes sought would still need to be tested through a future process in line with legislative direction.

What other changes are anticipated in the short-term that will impact on Timaru District Council

- 20 The reform process currently underway is significant and will reshape the way in which planning occurs in New Zealand. It has previously been identified by the Government that national policy direction will be reviewed. It was expected a new suite of documents were to be released in the near future for consultation, however, recent announcements create uncertainty as to when the changes are to be delivered, and they may now be post-enactment of the new Acts. The EAG report supports the review and streamlining of national direction and there may still be some targeted changes prior to the enactment of new legislation.

What opportunities exist for Timaru District Council to front foot the reform

- 21 The Government announcements and the on-going reform process highlight that the role Timaru District Council plays in the future planning system will look different. With change comes opportunities and the reform looks positive in creating a more efficient system whilst also allowing local authorities to influence what their areas look like.
- 22 One clear opportunity is the development spatial planning in the form of long-term strategic planning that identifies development opportunities, informed by environmental constraints and the investment needed to unlock that development. Best practice spatial planning is based on robust data and other information and follows a rigorous process, with high levels of community and stakeholder engagement and expert input.

- 23 The EAG identifies that spatial planning will play a vital role in the new system. It will identify the spatial implications of environmental constraints such as hazards, SNAs, ONFLs and highly productive land, and support a permissive approach to development in areas where those constraints can be avoided or appropriately managed. Importantly spatial plans will not restrict development in alternative location, subject to environmental constraints and national policy direction.
- 24 An important role for spatial planning will be to integrate and align regulatory planning with infrastructure planning and investment. To support spatial planning as an effective integration tool, the EAG recommend that long-term plans (LTP) under the Local Government Act 2002 and regional land transport plans (RLTP) under the Land Transport Management Act 2003 will be required to align with spatial plans, this aligns with current requirements of the National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020. Keeping these plans aligned is recommended to be an iterative process. For example, it is intended that a significant change to a spatial plan may require a change to the LTP or RLTP.
- 25 It is also suggested that spatial plans will inform central government funding and budget processes. It is suggested a joint committee will be formed within each region to drive spatial planning. On face value it seems incredibly important that Timaru is well prepared to have strong evidence and direction as the development of spatial plans becomes mandated.

What actions will ensure Timaru District Council is in the best position to respond to reform

- 26 Indications are that the transition to the new system will occur relatively quickly with recommendations provided by the EAG supporting the transferring on existing plans into the new system. This will result in quick changes to consenting processes with the current tests of the RMA proposed to be streamlined.
- 27 With quick transition intended there is benefit in completing the existing DPR process due to its significant progress through the hearings phase. The timelines available highlight that hearings on the PDP will be completed and decisions either issued or imminent by the time that the new legislation is introduced to the House for the select committee process.
- 28 Having a district plan which has recently been tested through a hearing process would set a solid foundation for transition to the new system and would likely reduce the amount of effort required to transfer the appropriate elements to the new planning framework. The time and cost of reaching the current stage in the DPR would be lost if the project was to be withdrawn, and pausing would delay any outcome and leave Council in a weaker position when the transition becomes mandated by law.
- 29 Information already gathered coupled with the decisions on the PDP will provide a strong information base to help inform the spatial planning element of the new system. The EAG report is clear in reference to requiring decision based on evidence and allowing the market to play more of a role in driving planning outcomes for communities. Whilst this approach should be supported a need remains to ensure the provision of municipal services is not compromised and remains viable for the wider ratepayer base.
- 30 Additionally, Council needs to ensure that it is well positioned to understand implications of the new system on infrastructure provision and the like, allowing for this information to be input into the spatial planning process. Further changes to the allocation of resources will also need to be monitored closely by Council to ensure the ability to continue delivering municipal supplies but also impact on key industries such as farming within the Timaru District.

What are the options for the current PDP process

- 31 There are three options available to Council in relation to the PDP process:
- 32 Complete the current work program which includes the completion of the hearing schedule in September 2025, with decisions to be issued following the completion of the hearings. Council will then be in the position of needing to respond to any appeals received.
- 33 Pause the work program and seek an additional time extension from the Minister.
- 34 Withdraw the proposed plan and revert to the existing Operative Timaru District Plan.
- 35 A brief initial assessment of the three options available is provided in the Table below:

Initial Assessment of Options Available Regarding the PDP		
Option	Pros	Cons
<i>Complete the current work program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will result in TDC having a district plan that has recently been scrutinised, providing a sound base for transition to the new system.</li> <li>It is anticipated that less re-work will be required to support the transition to the new system and will mean that some matters will not have to be re-visited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires further financial investment (budgeted) to complete the project.</li> <li>Unknown costs to be associated with responding to appeals (quantum of appeals unknown).</li> <li>Elements may be lost in the transition to the new system.</li> </ul>
<i>Pause the work program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would result in the pausing of additional spending associated with progressing the review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further spend will be required to complete the work program at a future date.</li> <li>Will require an additional extension from the Minister for the Environment to meet statutory obligations.</li> <li>Work done to date that has not progressed to hearing will need to be re-visited.</li> <li>Hearings completed to date and investment from all parties may be lost.</li> <li>Planning consents would continue to need to be assessed against two planning documents.</li> </ul>
<i>Withdraw the proposed plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would result in no further spending on the DPR process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment in the process to-date across the last ten years would be lost.</li> <li>The existing ODP would be the document that had legal</li> </ul>

		<p>effect, noting it would be more than two decades out of date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ODP would transition to the new planning framework and would require review quickly as it would be out of date, and largely out of sync with other plans that have been reviewed more recently.</li><li>• Council may need to litigate the approach being taken within the framework by other agencies due to an absence of up-to-date information in ODP (constraints mapping).</li></ul>
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**Conclusion**

- 36 The release of information on Phase 3 of the resource management reform work program is an exciting moment, as it provides additional direction as to what the future system will look like. This announcement provides some direction to Council as to what actions will leave Timaru District Council in the best position to respond. Initial assessment suggests that completing the DPR process will provide a better foundation for Council in transitioning to the new system, noting that this does come with an immediate cost. Deciding to not progress the DPR will likely result in the additional costs being deferred to a future date, with the expenditure to date being lost.
- 37 Additionally, the information provided highlights that Council will need to be prepared to fully engage in the new system as there will be an opportunity to help inform a framework that maintains a localised approach and will streamline the ability of the community to meet its needs. The new system identified flags a progressive shift that will see clearer direction from Government. As with any legislative change this will create pressure on all Councils, and result in a shift in how things are done.

**Attachments**

Nil

**9      Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

**10     Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

**11     Public Forum Items Requiring Consideration**