

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 49 – DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER MCKAY

DATED 21 OCTOBER 2025

[1] In accordance with the Hearings Procedures recorded in Minute 6 the Hearing Panel¹ maintains a record of declarations of interest by members (interests register) which is published on the Council proposed plan website.²

[2] Commissioner McKay has disclosed that she has been appointed as a Councillor of Environment Canterbury pursuant to the Canterbury Regional Council (Ngāi Tahu Representation) Act 2022. Environment Canterbury is a submitter and further submitter on the Proposed Timaru District Plan (PDP). Ms McKay is eligible for appointment by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu due to her whakapapa. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is a submitter and further submitter on the PDP.

[3] Ms McKay's whakapapa relationships have previously been disclosed and are recorded on the interests register.

[4] As Chair of the Hearing Panel I have considered the potential for conflicts of interest arising from this new appointment. I am of the view that there is no actual conflict at this time and the new appointment can be managed appropriately so that Commissioner McKay can

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 ("PDP") 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://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/planning/district-plan/proposed-district-plan/hearings-information/meet-the-panel>

complete her role as an independent hearing commissioner on the PDP without any actual or potential conflict of interest arising for the following reasons:

- (a) Hearings where Commissioner McKay was appointed to the Panel were complete before the appointment was made.
- (b) Commissioner McKay was not a member of the Panel on the Natural Hazards Chapter where TDC has relied on the expert evidence of Environment Canterbury in formulating its recommendations to the Panel regarding natural hazard risk.
- (c) As a newly appointed Councillor, Commissioner McKay has had no role in the development or presentation of Environment Canterbury's submissions on the PDP.
- (d) To the extent that Environment Canterbury Councillors may have a future role in determining the position of Environment Canterbury following the issue of our decision, Commissioner McKay has confirmed that she will recuse herself from any Environment Canterbury decision making process in relation to the PDP.
- (e) Commissioner McKay's appointment by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is unrelated to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu submissions on the PDP.

[5] Should any submitter wish to raise any issues about the continuation of Commissioner McKay's role as an independent hearing commissioner due to her recent appointment as an Environment Canterbury Councillor, they may do so in writing before 5pm on Wednesday 29 October 2025.

Dated 21 October 2025



C E ROBINSON - CHAIR ON BEHALF OF THE HEARINGS PANEL