

HCC CENTRAL CITY RESERVOIR - RUAKIWI ROAD
NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT BY THE HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL

DIRECTION #1

INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of Direction #1 is to set out directions for the hearing of submissions on the Notice of Requirement and to set out a timetable for report, evidence and submissions exchange.

PRELIMINARIES

2. Under section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Hamilton City Council (Council) has delegated to an Independent Hearing Panel (the Panel) comprising David Hill (Chair) and Dave Moule, hearings commissioners, the hearing of and making decisions on submissions to Council's Notice of Requirement for the HCC Central City Reservoir – Ruakiwi Road to alter existing designation A67 (**the NOR**).
3. The NOR was publicly notified on 23 September 2025; submissions closed on 22 October 2025; and 6 submissions were received.
4. The hearing is scheduled to commence in the week of 23 February 2026.

EXCHANGE OF EVIDENCE

5. By Joint Memorandum of Counsel, dated 25 November 2025, procedural directions are sought in respect of a timetable for the exchange of reports, evidence and submissions / lay presentations as follows:
 - a) A planning report pursuant to s 42A of the RMA is to be lodged with the Hearing Administrator by 4pm, 3 December 2025.
 - b) The Requiring Authority (RA) is to lodge its expert evidence-in-chief with the Hearing Administrator by 4pm, 19 December 2025.
 - c) Any submitters intending to present expert evidence at the hearing are to lodge their expert evidence-in-chief with the Hearing Administrator by 4pm, 23 January 2026.
 - d) Any rebuttal evidence is to be lodged with the Hearing Administrator by 4pm, 10 February 2026.
 - e) If the Panel directs expert conferencing to occur on any particular topic, it will be scheduled between 12 and 16 February 2026.
 - f) Any parties intending to present opening legal submissions at the hearing are to lodge their opening legal submissions with the Hearing Administrator by 4pm, 20 February 2026.

- g) While written lay presentations are not required to be exchanged in advance of the hearing, the Panel strongly encourages pre-circulation of any written lay presentations at least three days in advance of appearing to avoid the need to read written material verbatim at the hearing.

DIRECTIONS

6. Having reviewed that request, we agree that those dates provide sufficient time for parties to respond and prepare for the hearing, and direct accordingly.
7. For the avoidance of doubt “*expert evidence*” is in accordance with sections 8 and 9 of the Environment Court’s Practice Note 2023.
8. The Hearing Administrator will advise all parties when any of the material required by the above directions is available and post them on Council’s website.

HEARING PROTOCOL

9. Unless otherwise advised by the Panel, witnesses will not be required to read their pre-circulated evidence in full at the hearing. Instead, a written summary should be prepared to be read and may include any evidence prepared in rebuttal – noting that rebuttal is not an opportunity to advance novel material nor to repeat points already made in primary evidence.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE HEARING PANEL

10. All communications to the Panel, including all general enquiries, procedural requests and documents required by any direction of the Panel, are to be emailed to the Hearing Administrator at planchange@hcc.govt.nz .



David Hill (Chairperson)
Independent Hearing Panel

26 November 2025