

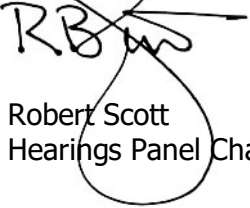
PROPOSED FAR NORTH DISTRICT PLAN

MINUTE 26 OF THE INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL

REQUEST TO DELAY HEARINGS

1. We have received a request from Te Whanaunui o Ngāti Kura to defer the hearings of the submissions and further submissions that are scheduled to be heard as part of Hearing 15A of the hearings of submissions to the Far North Proposed District Plan (**PDP**). The subject submissions are the further submission **FS91** from **Te Whanaunui o Ngāti Kura/Moana Kiff** which is a further submission opposing submission **S463** from **Waiaua Bay Farm Limited**. Hearing 15A relates to Rezoning General Requests - Māori Purpose, Open Space, Existing Special Purpose Zones and Kauri Cliffs and Carrington Estate Special Purpose Zone. The hearings are scheduled for 25 and 26 August 2025.
2. The deferment is sought on the basis that sufficient time is needed to prepare both Cultural and Environmental Reports prior to the hearings, it being stated that such reports are lacking in relation to all Waiaua Bay Farm Limited developments. The details of the request are included in the email dated 2 June 2025 from Waiaua Whanau and the accompanying undated statement from Te Whanaunui o Waiaua Committee and Moana Kiff as the Hapu Member of Te Whanau o Waiaua.
3. It is pointed out in the statement that a Cultural Report takes a minimum of 6 months to prepare and to assess the impact of the proposed developments (the zoning would provide for) on the Hapu's Maunga, Moana, te Taiao, Maoritanga, Kaitiakitanga, and Rangatiratanga. Most importantly, it is stated that Te Whanaunui o Waiaua o Ngāti Kura are Tangata whenua of their ancestral land, that land being privately owned and which is the subject of the submission by Waiaua Bay Farm Limited).
4. We have carefully considered the request and the accompanying statement, much of which reads like a statement of evidence that may be presented at a submission hearing. Indeed, that may well be a statement that is presented at the scheduled hearings in support of the further submission, and which would be taken account of by the Hearings Panel. However, we are not able to agree to such a long deferment as sought which, on the basis of what is stated, would take the hearings process beyond the deadline that the Council has set for the hearings of the submissions to the PDP to be completed and for recommended decisions to be made available.
5. In these respects, we point out that the closing date for submissions to the PDP was 21 October 2022 and the closing date for further submissions was 4 September 2023. The matters raised in those submissions was therefore known then and the time that has elapsed since then has provided ample time for the preparation of any material submitters considered could be presented at the future hearings. Further, we are generally not limiting what material may be presented at the hearings and submitters will usually present additional material to that in their submissions, bearing in mind it does need to relate to the points stated in their earlier submission.

6. In all the circumstances we find we are not able to defer the hearing of submissions and further submissions scheduled to be heard on 25 and 26 August 2025 as part of the scheduled programme of hearing all submissions and further submissions to the Far North Proposed District Plan.
7. We are of the view that in all the circumstances, our response is reasonable, enabling an efficient process without unnecessary delays that unreasonably prejudice any party, or that compromise the overall PDP hearings and decision-making programme.
8. If you have any questions regarding this Minute, please contact the Hearings Administrator Alicia-Kate (AK) Taihia - Submissions & Hearings Administrator District Plan: alicia-kate.taihia@fndc.govt.nz or (09) 4015247.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RBS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Scott
Hearings Panel Chairperson

10 June 2025