



PROPOSED FAR NORTH DISTRICT PLAN

MINUTE 41 OF THE INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL

NATIONAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

1. On 6 January 2026 the Independent Hearings Panel (**Panel**) issued [Minute 40](#) requesting Council's advice on the implications for the Proposed Plan process resulting from the 10 new and amended national direction documents (National Policy Statements and Standards) that were released on 18 December 2025 and came into effect on 15 January 2026. This advice was requested given that:
 - a. all hearings for the Proposed Plan had been completed;
 - b. all right of reply responses from Council officers had been received; and
 - c. Council is required to release its final decision by 27 May 2026.
2. These instruments are:

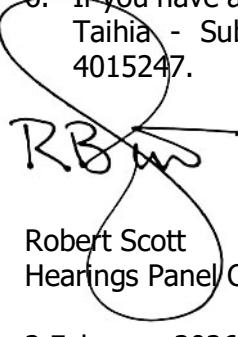
New national policy statements and national environmental standards

- a. Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025;
- b. National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025;
- c. National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025.

Amended national direction instruments

- a. National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025;
- b. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Amendment 2025;
- c. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Amendment 2025;
- d. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025;
- e. Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025;
- f. National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025;
- g. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025.

3. The Council responded in a [legal Memorandum dated 30 January 2026](#) and also included comment from Council reporting officers on the national direction instruments.
4. A copy is available on the Council website and is provided with the service of this Minute.
5. In the interests of natural justice and fairness, the Panel invites any submitter on the Proposed Plan that has a contrary view to the Council to provide a response via legal memoranda within 10 working days being 4.00pm on Tuesday 17 February 2026.
6. 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.



RB

Robert Scott
Hearings Panel Chairperson

2 February 2026