

---

**SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT & CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCILS  
PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE FOR THE WAIRARAPA INTERNATIONAL  
DARK SKY RESERVE – OUTDOOR ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING**

**MINUTE 2 OF COMMISSIONER**

---

**Introduction**

1. Further to the direction in my previous minute of 6 April, the Councils' consultant planner, Ms Donaldson, has coordinated a series of pre-hearing discussions with submitters.
2. The results of that dialogue have been summarised in a memo prepared by Ms Donaldson which is now available on [the Council website](#).
3. My understanding from that memo is that all submitters who previously indicated they wished to be heard have confirmed that they no longer wish to be heard in light of the amendments proposed in Ms Donaldson's memo.
4. The general function of this Minute is to set down a timetable for the completion of the plan change 'hearing' process.

**Proposed timetable from here**

5. Most often, a plan change process from here would entail an evidence exchange between all parties, the formal hearing, deliberations and delivery of my recommendation report.
6. In circumstances where all submitters have indicated they do not wish to be heard or have withdrawn a previously expressed desire to be heard, the RMA enables the matter to be determined without a hearing<sup>1</sup>.
7. Given the substance of Ms Donaldson's memo, I propose that the hearing be dispensed with, and that the following steps be followed in its place:
  - a. a brief review period for submitters;
  - b. circulation of the s42A RMA Report;
  - c. deliberations; and
  - d. delivery of my recommendation report.
8. Each of these steps is further described in turn below.

---

<sup>1</sup> RMA, Schedule 1, Clause 8C

### **Review period for submitters**

9. The first step in my proposed process is to afford submitters an opportunity to review Ms Donaldson's memo and all amendments to the plan change she has proposed as a result of submissions and pre-hearing meetings.
10. I understand that each submitter supports the amendments proposed in respect of their own submission; but submitters will not have had the opportunity to view *all* of Ms Donaldson's amendments proposed in relation to the submissions of others until now.
11. In the interests of fairness, this first step is simply to confirm that all submitters remain happy to proceed without a hearing in light of all of the recommended changes described in Ms Donaldson's memo.
12. I will proceed on the basis that all parties remain happy to proceed without a hearing, unless I hear otherwise from any submitter no later than **5pm on Wednesday 12 May 2021**. To be clear, no parties need to provide any response to this minute if they remain happy to proceed without a hearing.

### **Circulation of s42A Report**

13. Provided all parties remain happy to proceed without a hearing, I direct that the s42A Report be prepared and circulated to all parties no later than **5pm on Tuesday 18 May 2021**. My expectations are that the s42A Report will address all relevant statutory matters, including the requirements of s32AA RMA for all amendments proposed to the notified provisions.

### **Deliberations**

14. Following receipt of the s42A report, I will conduct deliberations, and signal as soon as possible whether:
  - a. I require any further information from any party; or
  - b. I have sufficient information to prepare my recommendation report to the Councils such that the hearing process can be closed.
15. My intent is to issue a brief minute **no later than Friday 21 May** to confirm this either way.

### **Recommendation report**

16. Finally, I will turn my mind to my recommendation report, which I expect to be able to deliver to the Councils later this month, provided the preceding steps follow the timeframes above.

## Closing comments

17. I'd like to take the opportunity to signal my gratitude for what appears to be very constructive efforts of the parties to narrow issues in contention and reach consensus. Your collective efforts are of great assistance to me and to the efficient processing of the plan change.
18. If any parties have any general questions about the above, please email Mr Russell O'Leary in the first instance at [russell.oleary@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:russell.oleary@swdc.govt.nz).

**DATED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021



---

J C Jones  
Independent RMA Hearings Commissioner