

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Ashburton District Plan

LOCAL AUTHORITY **ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MINUTE 1

MEMORANDUM OF COMMISSIONER DEAN CHRYSTAL RELATING TO PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- 1 The Ashburton District Council has pursuant to section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), appointed me to hear and make a recommendation Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Ashburton District Plan.
- 2 The hearing has been set down for the 16th and 17th of December 2025. The hearing will begin at 9.00am and is to be held at the Ashburton District Council.
- 3 The purpose of this memorandum is to address the pre-circulation of evidence prior to the hearing.

Pre-provision of evidence

- 4 It is considered that the pre-provision of expert evidence will produce the following benefits:
 - 4.1 Reduce the length and potential cost of the hearing itself by reducing the need to have all evidence read and help to focus attention on matters in contention and conflicting opinions;
 - 4.2 Help me to better prepare for the hearing and assume a more inquisitorial role; and
 - 4.3 Enable the reporting officer to consider the evidence of expert witnesses before the hearing and to seek further opinion from other staff if necessary.

Note: Expert evidence is considered to be evidence from independently qualified persons such as landscape architects, ecologists and planners.

- 5 For the above reasons, pursuant to section 41B of the Resource Management Act 1991, it is **directed that evidence be pre-provided** for in accordance with the following timetable:
 - The Council will circulate the section 42A Officers' Reports to all the parties no later than **Monday 24th November 2025**, being 15 full working days before the hearing;
 - The Applicant must provide briefs of evidence to the Council in an electronic form no later than **Monday 1st December 2025**, allowing 10 full working days before the hearing; and
 - Any person who has made a submission and is intending to call **expert evidence** must provide briefs of evidence to the Council in an electronic form no later than **Monday 8th December 2025**, allowing 5 full working days before the hearing.

Briefs of evidence are to be addressed to Gracie Woodhouse Gracie.Woodhouse@adc.govt.nz

Note: Submitters who do not intend to call expert witnesses do not have to comply with this timeframe and will be able to present their own evidence at the hearing.



Dean Chrystal

Hearings Commissioner

31st October 2025