

**IN THE MATTER OF**      the Resource Management Act 1991  
**AND**  
**IN THE MATTER OF**      Proposed Private Plan Change 7:  
Rotokauri North to the Hamilton City  
Operative District Plan.

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**SECTION 41 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**  
**DIRECTION #2**  
**INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL**

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1. Counsel for Green Seed Consultants Limited (GSCL), the applicant for Private Plan Change 7 - Rotokauri North (PC7) to the Hamilton City District Plan, has filed a memorandum dated 13 September 2021 seeking directions from the Hearing Panel concerning expert conferencing.
2. In that memorandum, Ms Andrews proposes expert conferencing on the topics of Traffic, Stormwater and Planning to take place in the week of 20 September 2021 (as indicated by us in Direction #1).
3. Having considered that proposal, and having consulted Hamilton City Council, we accept that some conferencing may be of assistance to the Panel on the topics of traffic and stormwater.
4. We do not consider that formal conferencing of planning experts at that point in the process would be particularly constructive - since at that time neither the expert evidence (the first tranche of which is not due until 24 September) nor the Joint Witness Statements (due 1 October 2021) from the traffic and stormwater expert conferencing will be available to them. However, we would encourage those planning witnesses to continue to informally consult with each other in order to further narrow any issues – and we may require formal conferencing later, including during the hearing.
5. We therefore make the following directions under section 41 of the RMA:
  - (a) Expert conferencing on the topics of (a) Traffic / Transportation and (b) Stormwater is to occur in the week commencing 20 September 2021.
  - (b) Those session are to be co-ordinated through Steve Rice (as Hearing Administrator) and Ms Andrews (for GSCL) – and may be conducted by remote access facility (i.e. virtually) if that is most convenient to participants.
  - (c) In addition to paragraph 3(c) of our Direction #1, submitters and Council are to identify those relevant experts who are proposed to participate in either of the two expert conference sessions no later than 15 September 2021.
  - (d) GSCL is to circulate an agenda for the expert conferencing by 17 September 2021.

- (e) Signed Joint Witness Statements (JWS) from the expert conferencing sessions are to be filed with the Panel through Mr Rice by 1 October 2021. The JWS should adopt the general format specified in the Environment Court Practice Note 2014 – as considered appropriate by the participants. That is, it need not be followed slavishly.
  - (f) If an expert conference facilitator is required by participants, that is to be arranged between Ms Andrews and Mr Rice, and the Panel advised accordingly.
6. Any queries or correspondence related to this Direction should be sent through the Hearing Administrator, Mr Steve Rice: [steve@riceres.co.nz](mailto:steve@riceres.co.nz).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

David Hill (Chairperson)  
Independent Hearing Panel

13 September 2021