

**IN THE MATTER OF: THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF: REVIEW OF DISTRICT PLAN FOR PORIRUA CITY**

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**MEMORANDUM in RELATION to HEARING PROCEDURES**

**ROBYN SMITH**

**3 October 2021**

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## MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL

1. This Memorandum is filed in relation to the review of the District Plan for Porirua.
2. I have filed a substantial and comprehensive submission, and a further submission, on the proposed plan.
3. The Panel issued Minute #5 dated 1 October 2021. The minute includes this invitation: *"If any PDP party wishes to provide comment that the Hearing Panel might consider on that timeline, or on hearing procedures more generally, they are requested to provide same to the Hearing Administrator by 15 October."*
4. This memorandum responds to that invitation.
5. I ask that the hearing procedures be amended to specifically allow for, and encourage, parties to engage with each other outside the formal hearing.
6. In this respect I note that the procedures for the Plan Change No.18 hearing included this comment: *"The Hearing Panel strongly encourages experts to consult with each other to ensure clarity of issues and concise statements of evidence focused on the key issues that cannot be resolved."*
7. I feel this approach has some benefits, but also see that it should not be limited to 'experts' and 'evidence'. I suggest that this be guided by the following parameters.
  - Aim to resolve outstanding issues and provide a potential solution.
  - Work together on the principle of informal 'conferencing' without prejudice.
  - Dialogue is confidential between parties, except for any formal communication to the Panel.
  - If desirable, seek leave from the Panel to provide a summary of the informal conferencing.
  - Parties can agree or disagree.
10. I look forward to a favourable response to this suggestion.

Dated 3 October 2021.



Robyn Smith