

Information Forum(s) on Economic and Science Modelling for Proposed Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipa River Catchments- Preliminary (Informal) Notice

1. The Hearings Panel has requested that an "Information Forum(s)" be held prior to the hearings commencing for submitters who have raised issues relating to the economic and science Modelling that underpin the proposed Plan Change. The Information Forum(s) will not be formal expert conferencing.
2. This is a preliminary notice and is not a formal Minute or Direction from the Hearings Panel.
3. Given the significance of the modelling that underpins the proposed plan change, and the submissions received to date (acknowledging that the further submission period is not yet closed), the Hearings Panel wants to give advance notice of the Information Forum(s). This is so the currently identified parties are:
 - aware of this process and its likely timing,
 - can coordinate any expert witnesses (as necessary); and
 - consider what issues and/or questions need to be addressed (see below under the heading **Response**).
4. A formal Minute or Direction will be issued by the Hearings Panel on this once the further submission process is completed and the Council's submitter database is completed. This will ensure all parties will have formal notice of the Information Forum(s).
5. The purpose of the Information Forum(s) is:
 - to enable the Council to explain the models, their development, inputs, assumptions and outputs;
 - for submitters who have alternative models to discuss these, and
 - for all parties to be able to discuss and understand the models and their implications for the Plan Change provisions - AND
 - to explore the extent to which there is broad agreement or not on the modelling, and how the outcome of the Information Forum(s) can be reported to the Hearings Panel.
6. The Information Forum session(s) will be facilitated by independent and expert facilitators
7. There is no expectation that those attending the Forum need to prepare expert evidence prior to the Forum(s); it is an 'information sharing' session. Experts will not be required to prepare a joint witness statement. The facilitators will provide a report to the Hearings Panel on the Forum process and any agreed outcomes that they consider would assist the Panel to be aware of.
8. Timing - It is likely the Information Forum(s) will be held in **late November 2018 and/or early December 2018**.
9. Given the importance to the Hearing Panel of the Information Forum(s), and their timing, it is likely that hearings on these matters (the first tranche of the hearings of submissions) will commence very late in February 2019.

Response

10. In relation to the Information Forum(s) the Hearings Panel would appreciate if you could inform the Council by 12 October 2018 to:
HealthyRiversHearingCoordinator@waikatoregion.govt.nz
- Whether you will attend the Forum(s)
 - Who will coming, including which experts or expertise, and
 - Whether you have any particular issue or questions you would like to raise at the Forum(s).



Greg Hill
Chair of the Hearing Panel

27 September 2018