

**IN THE MATTER OF** the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** Proposed Plan Change 61 at Darfield to the Selwyn District Plan

**LOCAL AUTHORITY** SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTE 1**

**MEMORANDUM OF COMMISSIONER DEAN CHRYSTAL RELATING TO PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

- 1 The Selwyn District Council has pursuant to section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), appointed me to hear and make a decision Proposed Plan Change 61 at Darfield to the Selwyn District Plan.
- 2 The hearing has been set down for the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 with the 16<sup>th</sup> of March as a reserve day. The hearing will begin at 9.00am and is to be held at the Darfield Recreation and Community Centre on North Terrace.
- 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 officers 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 by no later than **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**, being 15 full working days before the hearing;
  - The Applicant must provide briefs of evidence to the Council in an electronic form by no later than **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**, 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 by no later than **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**, allowing 5 full working days before the hearing.

Briefs of evidence are to be addressed to Emma Robertson – [Emma.Robertson@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:Emma.Robertson@selwyn.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

20<sup>th</sup> January 2021