

PROPOSED FAR NORTH DISTRICT PLAN

MINUTE 21 OF THE INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL

Update to Hearing 8 – Questions to Council Planner

1. On Wednesday 20 November 2024 the Hearing Panel heard evidence on submissions relating to the following topics: Open Space, Engineering Standards & Mineral Extraction. Following the receipt of the Council's right of reply the Hearing Panel (consisting of Robert Scott, Peter Kensington and Steve McNally) began interim deliberations on 18 February 2025. Prior to concluding our deliberations, we have some questions of clarification from the Council planner.
 - a. At the conclusion of the hearing on 20 November was asked for a plan that spatially showed the locations of the various quarries included in the proposed Mineral Extraction Zone on a single plan. This was to assist us with understand the location of each quarry within the District. This was not provided with the Right of Reply material and we request it again to assist in our further deliberations.
 - b. We would like further comment from the planner on the rationale and structure of mineral extraction provisions. The Panel understands the rationale for removing the Mineral Extraction Overlay and replacing it with a Mineral Extraction Zone. However, the rationale for a separate Mineral Extraction Chapter (in Part 2 – General District-Wide Matters) and a Mineral Extraction Zone (in Part 3 – Area Specific Matters - Special Purpose Zones) has not been fully explained in either the hearing report or the Right of Reply. We asked the planner at the hearing whether the two chapters could be combined into a single chapter.
 - i. Is there a case for the two Mineral Extraction sections of the PDP to be combined into a single Mineral Extraction Zone?

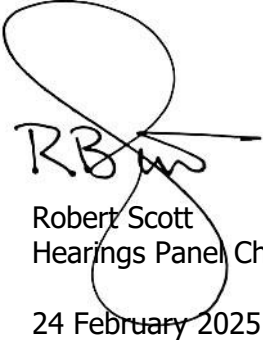
Or
 - ii. Does the Mineral Extraction chapter (in Part 2 of the PDP) need to remain separate from the Mineral Extraction Zone (in Part 3 of the PDP) because the Mineral Extraction chapter contains provisions (objectives and policies) that apply to mineral extraction activities outside the Mineral Extraction Zone?
 - iii. If the rationale in (ii) applies does there need to be some explanation in the mineral extraction sections of the PDP (i.e. Overview sections) to explain why mineral extraction has provisions in both Part 2 and Part 3 of the PDP?

Please provide further comment on these matters.

- c. We note that there are recommended provisions for mineral extraction activities outside the Mineral Extraction Zone (i.e. Rural Production Zone). Please comment on whether there is merit to include reference to the matters in Policy ME-P12 as part of that assessment?

d. Rule ME-R4 - Expansion of existing mineral extraction activity in the Mineral Extraction Zone is proposed to be a Controlled Activity. In light of evidence presented by Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, we would like comment from the Council planner on whether a Restricted Discretionary Activity would be a better activity status for this?

2. If you have any questions regarding this Minute, please contact the Hearings Administrator Alicia-Kate (AK) Taihia - Submissions & Hearings Administrator District Plan: alicia-kate.taihia@fndc.govt.nz or (09)4015247.



Robert Scott
Hearings Panel Chairperson

24 February 2025