

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

AND

IN THE MATTER of hearing submissions and further submissions on the Proposed Kaipara District Plan

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Hearing 10: Māori Purpose Zone and Hearing 11: Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori

MEMORANDUM OF THE HEARING PANEL IN RESONSE TO A REQUEST FROM KAIPARA DISTRICT COUNCIL TO POSTPONE HEARINGS 10 AND 11 COMMENCING ON 4 AND 5 MAY 2026

Dated: 30 April 2026

INTRODUCTION

1. We received a Memorandum (**the Memorandum**) dated 28 April 2026 from Tompkins Wake (Ms Bridget Parham) on behalf of Kaipara District Council (**Council**) relating to the above hearings and specially in relation to Hearing Topic 10: *Māori Purpose Zone* and Hearing Topic 11: *Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori*. The hearings for these two topics are scheduled to commence on 4 and 5 May 2026 respectively.
2. In the Memorandum *“Council respectfully requests that the Hearing Panel postpone Hearings 10 and 11 and suspend all directions relating to those hearings, to enable Council and Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust (**Te Uri o Hau**) to progress an agreed pathway forward addressing the procedural matters raised by Te Uri o Hau in its evidence.”*

BACKGROUND

3. In the background to the request, reference is made to the planning evidence earlier lodged on behalf of Te Uri o Hau as a submitter and also to a legal memorandum dated 20 April 2026 filed on behalf of Te Uri o Hau addressing concerns with the Proposed District Plan (**PDP**) process.
4. The pre-hearing meeting between Council and Te Uri o Hau on 22 April 2026 is referred to and to the parties having reached an in-principle agreement on a proposed pathway

forward to address the concerns identified. The following day Te Uri o Hau provided further information regarding its preferred approach to addressing its concerns.

5. Te Uri o Hau now advise in the Memorandum –

“that in its view, it would be more efficient to reschedule the hearings to the end of the overall hearing programme. This would enable a single, integrated hearing on these topics and avoid unnecessary duplication of hearing time and cost. This approach is also broadly consistent with the relief Te Uri o Hau sought in its Legal Memorandum, which proposed that the mapping of scheduled sites be heard at the end of the hearings, with a timetable established for the notification of sites sought to be scheduled and further submissions in reply.”

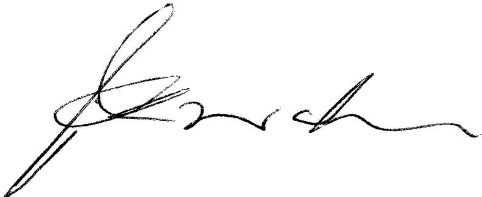
The reasons are explained in the Memorandum why the Council has not been able to respond to the further information provided or to progress an agreed pathway forward regarding the hearing and consideration of Te Uri o Hau’s concerns. What is apparent to us as the Hearing Panel for these topics is that there is now limited time available before the scheduled hearings and further, that there does appear to be solutions to the submitter’s concerns that are more efficiently and effectively resolved through some further time being available to the parties.

WAY FORWARD

6. The Hearing Panel is reluctant to be altering the programme for hearing submissions but is guided by settling on the most efficient and effective process for the parties to express their respective views as a step towards the Panel receiving the information it needs to decide any matters at issue. The Panel does not want to stay with a process, or with timings, that look like not providing for the best solution to matters at issue.
7. The Panel is concerned with other parties who may be affected by an adjournment but is advised in the Memorandum that Council will immediately liaise with affected submitters upon receiving the Panel’s directions in response to the Memorandum. In all the circumstances, and recognising the limited time available, that may be the best we can achieve.
8. Accordingly, the Hearing Panel directs that:
 - (a) The hearings in relation to Hearing Topic 10: *Māori Purpose Zone* and Hearing Topic 11: *Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori* that are scheduled to commence on 4 and 5 May 2026 respectively are postponed to a date to be advised. This is in order that all the parties that have lodged submissions, and specifically Te Uri o Hau, can liaise further with the Council with a view to resolving all or some of their concerns.
 - (b) The Hearing Panel will advise, with a further memorandum or a direction, on the pathway to the parties meeting further, that pathway to be based on what has

been agreed to by Council and Te Uri o Hau at the earlier pre-hearing meeting on 22 April 2026 and as referred to in the Memorandum of 28 April 2026.

9. The Council's Policy and Planning Administrator has advised the parties of the above postponement of the hearings that had been scheduled for 3 and 4 May 2026.
10. Any queries or similar relating to the above should be directed to the Council's Policy and Planning Administrator, Meagan Walters at meagan.walters@kaipara.govt.nz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Watson', written in a cursive style.

Alan Watson
For the Hearing Panel
30 April 2026