

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of Variation 3 – Taiwawe Catchment Structure
Plan to the Proposed Thames Coromandel District
Plan by Hot Water Beach NZ Ltd

DIRECTION OF THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS

1. Pursuant to section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**), Thames Coromandel District Council (**the Council**) has appointed Independent Hearing Commissioners Alan Watson and Paul Cooney (**the Panel**) to hear and determine submissions to Variation 3 – Taiwawe Catchment Structure Plan (**the Variation**) to the Proposed Thames Coromandel District Plan.
2. The hearing has been set for Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 March 2021 at the Council's Mercury Bay Service Centre at Whitianga. Tuesday is a reserve day, if required.
3. The purpose of this Direction is to provide the opportunity for the Panel and for the parties to consider any expert or technical evidence in advance of the hearing to assist all parties in understanding that expert evidence. It will also assist in providing that the hearing proceedings can be conducted in an efficient and effective manner.
4. The Panel understands the Council's section 42A RMA report was circulated on Friday 12 February 2021.
5. The Panel directs, consistent with section 41B of the RMA, as follows:
 - (a) Expert evidence to be called at the hearing by the proponent for the Variation is to be provided to the Council's Hearings Advisor by **midday on Monday 1 March 2021**, for circulation by the Council to the Panel, the submitters, the further submitters, and Council officers.
 - (b) Any submitter or further submitter who intends to call expert evidence at the hearing (generally being evidence given by a professional with specialist qualifications and experience) is to provide that expert evidence to the Council's Hearings Advisor by **midday Monday 8 March 2021** for circulation by the Council to the Panel, other submitters, other further submitters, and the Council officers.
 - (c) Expert evidence should be sent to the Council by email to Hillary Hodges, Policy Planner at hillary.hodges@tcdc.govt.nz
6. For the avoidance of doubt, lay representations (non-expert evidence) or evidence to be

presented by submitters who are “non-experts” (persons who do not provide expert evidence at these types of proceedings) and legal submissions are not required to be provided prior to the hearing. Those submitters will have the opportunity to present written or oral evidence at the hearing in the normal manner. They do not need to pre-circulate their own statements or representations before the hearing commences.

7. The Panel advises it will decide at the hearing whether the late submissions will be accepted. The Panel will provide the opportunity for the late submitters to explain their positions and for the proponent of the Variation and the Council’s reporting planner to provide any comments to the Panel. The Panel acknowledges the reporting planner has already provided advice on this matter in the section 42A RMA report.
8. This Direction is to be circulated to all the parties to the hearing by the Hearings Advisor. That may be by email.

Any enquiries regarding this Direction or related matters should be directed to Bruce Baker, Senior Policy Planner at bruce.baker@tcddc.govt.nz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Watson
for the Hearing Panel

16 February 2021