

DIRECTIONS OF THE HEARINGS PANEL**MINUTE 3****PLAN CHANGE 2 – HOUSING AND CODE OF PRACTICE****DIRECTIONS REGARDING LATE FILING OF EXPERT EVIDENCE****1 INTRODUCTION**

- [1] The Council has received requests from Environment Southland and Te Whatu Ora seeking an extension to the deadline for filing expert evidence. The original deadline for filing expert evidence was 12.00pm on Monday 4 May 2026.
- [2] Environment Southland has sought an extension on the basis that its evidence is currently in the sign-off phase.
- [3] Te Whatu Ora has sought an extension on the basis that its potential expert witness has recently returned from overseas and Te Whatu Ora is working to confirm that witness's involvement.
- [4] The Panel is satisfied that a short extension is appropriate in the circumstances. The extension will assist with ensuring that any expert evidence is available in writing before the hearing and can be circulated to the parties. The Panel is also satisfied that the short extension will not alter the hearing timetable or cause material prejudice to other parties.

2 DECISION

- [5] The time for Environment Southland and Te Whatu Ora to file expert evidence is extended from 12.00pm on Monday 4 May 2026 to **5.00pm on Wednesday 6 May 2026**.
- [6] Any expert evidence filed by Environment Southland or Te Whatu Ora by 5.00pm on Wednesday 6 May 2026 will be accepted for filing.
- [7] This extension applies only to Environment Southland and Te Whatu Ora. It does not alter any other timetable directions or filing deadlines.
- [8] Any further requests for extensions will be considered separately if received.



Megan McKay

Independent Commissioner – Chair, on behalf of the ICC Plan Change 2 Hearing Panel

4 May 2026