



Te Tai o Poutini PLAN

A combined district plan for the West Coast

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee Meeting Public Agenda live streamed on Facebook

AGENDA

9.30	Welcome and Apologies	Chair
	Minutes	
9.40	Member of the Public – Tangi Weepu Lauren Phillips	Chair
10.15	Consideration of Commissioner	Chair
10.30	Meeting Ends	



Te Tai o Poutini PLAN

A combined district plan for the West Coast

Prepared for: Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee
Prepared by: Rachel Vaughan, Acting Project Manager
Date: 15 June 2023
Subject: **Poutini Ngai Tahu Commission**

Overview

1. On 28 February 2023 the Committee discussed hearing panel Commissioner nominations and approved four Commissioners to hear submissions and make recommendations on the provisions of the Te Tai o Poutini Plan.
2. The nominated Commissioner for Poutini Ngai Tahu was Veronica Baldwin.
3. On 26 May 2023, a resignation was received from Veronica Baldwin.
4. Poutini Ngai Tahu were invited to recommend a replacement Commissioner.
5. If no replacement Commissioner is nominated this could impact the draft schedule timetable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Receives this paper.
2. Discusses a Poutini Ngai Tahu Commissioner nomination for TTPP hearings.
3. Directs the Project Manager to undertake contractual negotiations with the approved panel and Chair candidates.
4. Delegates signing authority for these contracts to the Chief Executive, West Coast Regional Council.

Or

That the Committee:

1. Receives this paper.
2. The hearings process is further delayed until December to allow sufficient time for replacement Commissioner to be found.

Rachel Vaughan

Acting Project Manager

Introduction

1. At its 21 June 2022 Meeting the Committee received a paper (Appendix 1) detailing a process for identifying candidates to sit on the hearings panel. The paper also provided Resource Management Act guidelines on commissioner responsibilities for discussion.
2. To meet our statutory obligations and achieve the best outcomes for the West Coast it is recommended that hearing panel candidates include people with experience in and understanding of:
 - tikanga Māori and the perspectives of Poutini Ngai Tahu,
 - local district issues and requirements, and;
 - district plan hearings processes
6. The Meeting decided that decisions on the make-up of the hearing panel should lie with the new TTPP Committee, but felt that a five person panel, led by an independent Chair, would ensure that each of the three districts and Poutini Ngāi Tahu perspectives are represented.
7. The Meeting decided that Poutini Ngāi Tahu and the district councils would each nominate a potential commissioner and bring their nominations back to TTPP Committee for discussion.
8. The decision on the final make-up of the panel lies with the TTPP Committee. Final selection should take into account the variety of skills and experience required to hear the wide range of topics covered by TTPP.
9. On 28 February 2023 the Committee discussed hearing panel Commissioner nominations and approved four Commissioners to hear submissions and make recommendations on the provisions of the Te Tai o Poutini Plan.

Resignation of Commissioner

10. Following detailed discussions with the Commissioner Panel on the issue of conflicts of interest, each Commissioner was directed to assess their work which may result in a perceived conflict of interest.
11. It was directed that each risk area would be recorded along with potential mitigation measures to manage the conflict.
12. On 26 May 2023, a resignation was received from Veronica Baldwin, due to risk of perceived conflicts of interest from her involvement in the recent reclassification process of stewardship land on the West Coast.

Discussion

13. A draft hearings timetable has been developed to ensure there is no delay with the TTPP following the statutory process.
14. The Panel Commissioners have intended to issue a minute and set the process in train for a beginning of September hearing start date.
15. The minute will direct what parties involved in the hearing process will need to do to comply with statutory timeframes for exchange of evidence and presence at the hearings.
16. The minute needs to be issued with sufficient time for all parties to comply with the instructions.
17. There is a concern that there is now insufficient time to issue the minute to prepare for a September start date.
18. There is also further concern that the any new Poutini Ngai Tahu Commissioner appointment will be available on the dates identified in the draft hearing schedule.
19. As a matter of professional conduct, it is not appropriate or fair to leave the Commissioners daggling at the moment in terms of dates. This may financially impact the existing nominated Commissioners.

Conclusion

20. It is considered, due to timeframes, that the Committee discuss and approve a Poutini Ngai Tahu Commissioner nomination for TTPP hearings at today's meeting.
21. In the event a nomination is not available, it is considered that the hearings process is further delayed until December to allow sufficient time for replacement Commissioner to be found.