



Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Building and Housing

2 MAR 2016

Auckland Unitary Plan Independent Hearings Panel
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Attention: Panel Chair Judge David Kirkpatrick

Dear Judge

I write as a submitter on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan (PAUP). The Crown submission, lodged in the name of the Minister for the Environment is concerned with ensuring the Auckland Unitary Plan ultimately contains development controls and zoning that provide the needed long-term development capacity to meet projected population growth.

More recently, I have become involved in a plan change to be decided under an operative (transitional) plan. I am aware of the Hearing Panel's interim guidance issued on 31 July 2015 "Best practice approaches to re-zoning, precincts and changes to the Rural Urban Boundary". Among other things, this guidance states the Panel "will take into account issues debated in recent plan changes".

I, and I assume other submitters in a similar position, would be grateful if the Panel would consider clarifying its intention in that guidance. In particular, it would be useful to understand the Panel's position on the extent to which issues debated in recent plan changes will be taken into account by the panel, particularly where the objectives and policies in the higher order operative planning instruments that informed a recently decided plan change differ from those in the regional policy statement component of the PAUP.

I look forward to your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment