

BEFORE ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY AND CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF

**Resource Consent applications CRC242267, CRC242268,
CRC242269, CRC251999 and RMA/2023/3243 for
Southshore and South New Brighton Park Estuary Edge
Project**

APPLICANT

Christchurch City Council

**2ND MINUTE OF HEARINGS PANEL –HEARING DETAILS AND PROCEDURES
DATED 6 OCTOBER 2025**

Minute of Hearings Panel #2
Southshore and South New Brighton Park Estuary Edge Project
CRC242267, CRC242268, CRC242269, CRC251999 and RMA/2023/3243

Introduction

1. This Minute contains details of the hearing and hearing procedures. It relates to the Application by Christchurch City Council (the Applicant) for the Southshore and South New Brighton Park Estuary Edge Project which is to be heard by an independent hearings panel (the Panel) appointed by Environment Canterbury (ECan) and the Christchurch City Council (CCC) (the Councils).

Change in Panel composition

2. We hereby record that ECan and the CCC have jointly appointed Megan McKay onto the Panel, who will take the place of Yvette Couch-Lewis.

Hearing

3. The Hearing is scheduled from Monday 8 to Thursday 11 December 2025. The location will of the Hearing will be advised as soon as possible.
4. The Hearing will commence at **9:00 am**.
5. The following directions relate to the Hearing:
 - (a) The order of appearance will be:
 - Applicant
 - Submitter(s)
 - Section 42A Report author(s)
 - Applicant's right of reply (which may be given at the Hearing or in writing thereafter).
 - (b) Section 42A Reports¹ from ECan and the CCC will be available on or before **Friday, 14 November 2025** allowing the Applicant and Submitters to have regard to its contents when preparing their evidence. It would be extremely helpful to the Panel if the Applicant and Submitters could indicate in their evidence where they agree or disagree (with reasons) with the Section 42A Report author's recommendations.
 - (c) Pursuant to section 41B(2) of the RMA, the Applicant is directed to provide their expert² evidence (if any) to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Friday, 21 November 2025**.

¹ A Section 42A Report includes a discussion of the application and the submissions. It recommends (with reasons) whether the consent applications should be granted or not. That recommendation does not bind the Commissioners.

² Expert evidence is that written by qualified planners, engineers or scientists, for example, prepared in accordance with the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023 for expert witnesses.

- (d) If experts for the Applicant intend to base their evidence on technical reports that they authored, and which were included as part of the application, then the experts need not repeat material contained in those reports in their evidence. It will be sufficient for the evidence to cross-refer to that material.
 - (e) Pursuant to section 41B(3) of the RMA, Submitters who intend to call expert evidence in support of their submissions are directed to provide a written statement of that evidence to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Friday, 28 November 2025**.
 - (f) If Submitters intend to provide written evidence themselves, or have non-expert people appear on their behalf, then they are requested and strongly urged to also provide a written statement of that evidence to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Wednesday, 3 December 2025**.
 - (g) If Applicant or Submitter evidence to be presented by non-expert people is not provided to the Hearings Administrator by the above dates, then those people must bring fifteen (15) hard copies to the Hearing.
 - (h) If the Applicant and any Submitter propose to have legal counsel present opening legal submissions, they are requested to provide those submissions to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Thursday, 4 December 2025**.
 - (i) All original submissions, pre-circulated evidence and legal submissions will be taken as read at the Hearing. Accordingly, pursuant to section 41C(1)(b) of the RMA, the Applicant and Submitters are directed that all such material will not be read aloud at the Hearing, as that would be an inefficient use of time as the Panel will have already read it.
 - (j) At the Hearing the Applicant's experts may table and read aloud supplementary or rebuttal evidence responding to any expert evidence lodged by Submitters. The Panel anticipates that any such evidence will be concise.
 - (k) All people appearing at the Hearing will be allowed to verbally and briefly highlight key points from their evidence or legal submissions for the benefit of the Panel. The Panel will then ask any questions they may have.
 - (l) Should any Submitter wish to speak in Te Reo, utilise Sign Language, or utilise visual aids (PowerPoint, etc) they are requested to liaise directly with the Hearings Administrator, as soon as possible, but prior to **Tuesday, 2 December 2025** regarding their needs.
 - (m) If any participant intends to attend the hearing remotely (e.g. by way of Zoom/Teams) then they must ensure that a copy of all written material that they will refer to or read from (including speaking notes) during their presentation is provided to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Thursday, 4 December 2025**.
6. The Panel will need to consider any request to deviate from the timeframes under (b), (c) and (e) under s37 and s37A of the RMA. Therefore, any request for a deviation must contain an assessment under those sections.

Hearing process

7. Appearing at a hearing may be a new experience for some submitters. Those who have not been involved in hearings under the RMA before may wish to look at the following guidance on the Ministry for the Environment website:
<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/appearing-at-a-hearing-about-a-proposed-plan-or-resource-consent/>
8. Our preference is that the hearing is relatively informal. However, any hearing has an inherent degree of formality, and we outline how the hearing will be conducted below.
9. The key purpose of the hearing is to allow us to hear from and ask questions of the Applicant, submitters and the Councils, to help improve our understanding of what the key issues are that we need to consider and resolve.
10. Pursuant to section 41C(1) of the RMA, and in respect of evidence pre-circulated in accordance with these Directions, the hearing will be conducted in the following manner:
 - (a) The proceedings will begin with the Applicant presenting their legal submissions and evidence.
 - (b) Submitters will then present their case, supported by any counsel and expert witnesses they have engaged.
 - (c) The Councils, including any expert witnesses, will then address the Panel, responding to any matters raised by the Applicant and Submitters.
 - (d) The Applicant then has a right of reply to matters raised in the hearing. They may choose to do this after the Councils, or in writing after the hearing adjourns.
 - (e) Where a party has provided the pre-circulated expert evidence, they are to call the witness in person³, unless we provide prior notice to the party that this may not be necessary.
 - (f) The witness should proceed on the basis that the Hearings Panel has read the pre-circulated evidence in advance, however, may speak to the evidence or a written summary.
 - (g) We may then question the witness. There is no ability for any other party to question a witness. Only the Panel can ask questions.
11. The general presumption is that submitters will have 15 minutes to present. If a submitter considers that they will require additional time, they are to provide reasons why additional time is required. Submitters will be contacted by the Hearing

³ See paragraph 21 about online appearance

Administrator in advance of the hearing to schedule in when they will be appearing and whether they seek additional time to present. The Hearing Administrator will liaise with the Chair to confirm the scheduling of any additional time sought by a submitter.

Site visits

12. The Panel will undertake site visits as necessary. If any party has a desire for us to visit a particular site or locality, they should advise the Hearing Administrator no later than **4pm Friday 28 November 2025.**

Correspondence

13. Any correspondence with the Panel is to be directed through Alison Cooper at hearings@ecan.govt.nz

Service on the Councils

14. All evidence and legal submissions addressed by this Minute must be lodged with the Hearings Administrator preferably by email to hearings@ecan.govt.nz or by post to PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 or delivered to 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch.
15. All evidence and legal submissions must be provided as Microsoft Word documents. There must also be unlocked so that the Panel can annotate them.



Gina Sweetman
Chair of the Hearings Panel
6 October 2025