

IN THE MATTER OF The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Part 8, RMA

AND Requirement for designation by Space Operations New Zealand Limited (Requestor) made to Invercargill City Council ref: MI_2025_20

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE # 1 ON HEARING DIRECTIONS ETC.

Dated 17 August 2026

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. The Council has appointed me as sole Commissioner to hear a notified requirement for a designation by Space Operations New Zealand Limited and related submissions under RMA, Part 8.
- 1.2. This Minute sets the statutory timetable for pre-circulation of evidence and addresses other housekeeping matters following the Council's hearing notice dated 5 August 2026, announcing the hearing will commence on Monday 28 September 2026 at 10 am in the Council Chamber, with three days allocated.

2.0 Directions: Circulation of Evidence under RMA, Part 4

- 2.1. The Requestor must provide the Council with its briefs of evidence no later than ten working days before the hearing.
- 2.2. Submitters must provide the Council with their briefs of evidence no later than five working days before the hearing.
- 2.3. Under s42A(3)(a), any written report commissioned by the Council must be pre-circulated 15 working days before the hearing.

3.0 Other Matters

- 3.1. There is a late submission from the Invercargill City Council. If the applicant opposes receiving that submission and waiving non-compliance with time limits, please provide those reasons within five working days.
- 3.2. I will, before the hearing, read the Council's 42A reports, any pre-circulated evidence and the submissions. That written material will not need to be re-read at the hearing. That will assist an efficient hearing. However, any party who wishes to highlight the key points of any pre-circulated material through a concise summary will be allowed to do so. Experts should give a short outline of the main disputed matters and a summary of their opinion on these matters in contention.

- 3.3. I will conduct a site visit before or after the hearing.
- 3.4. All pre-circulated evidence and this Minute will be posted on the Council's website.
- 3.5. Please bring at least eight copies of other written material not pre-circulated with you.

4.0 Electronic Distribution

- 4.1. All hearing evidence, minutes, etc., will be posted on the Council website in the first instance and hearing participants are directed to that site. The Council can provide all evidence electronically and refer parties to its hosting URL, or download it, or attach it to an email, depending on size.

5.0 Graphics Bundle

- 5.1. It is useful to have a graphics bundle from the Applicant that includes the key features of the locality and the site, in A3 printed format and in electronic form. This can include, in the locality diagram, the location of Submitters and the relationship of the proposed requirement to those properties.

6.0 Order of Proceedings at Hearing

- 6.1. The programme for the hearing is, in outline, as follows:
 - 1. Introductions, housekeeping and procedural issues (if any);
 - 2. The Requestor presents the requirement application, including evidence and opening submissions;
 - 3. Commissioner's questions;
 - 4. Submitters who have indicated they wish to be heard present their evidence and submissions;
 - 5. Commissioner's questions of submitters and their witnesses;
 - 6. Council officer(s) present their report and respond to any new information;
 - 7. Requestor's right of reply.

7.0 AVL Arrangements

- 7.1. To limit expenses for all parties, experts (notably on non-contentious matters) may attend by AVL if the Council approves the request.

8.0 Communication and Queries

- 8.1. Direct all communications with the Council and questions about the process, this Minute, or logistics to Terence Boylan at the Council. Send inquiries via email to terence.boylan@icc.govt.nz.
- 8.2. Between 28 September and 20 October 2026, Gillian Cavanagh will be the Council contact person at gillian.cavanagh@icc.govt.nz.



John Maassen (Chairperson)