

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Rural Advisory Panel will be held on:

**Date:** Friday, 6 May 2022  
**Time:** 12.30pm  
**Meeting Room:** This meeting will be held remotely and a recording of the meeting will be available on:  
**Venue:** <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/meetings-council-bodies/Pages/webcasts-council-meetings.aspx>

## Ngā Hui a te Rōpū Kaitohutohu Take ā-Taiwhenua Rural Advisory Panel OPEN AGENDA

### MEMBERSHIP

<b>Chairperson</b> <b>Deputy Chairperson</b> <b>Members</b>	Deputy Mayor Cr Bill Cashmore Cr Greg Sayers Brent Bailey Mike Bramley Alan Cole Trish Fordyce Annaliese Goettler Fiona Gower Shaun Hazelton Steve Levet Greg McCracken Andrew McKenzie Craig Maxwell Andrew Olsen Michelle Sands Wayne Scott Geoff Smith Peter Spencer Ken Turner Keith Vallabh Glenn Wilcox	Auckland Council Auckland Council Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council Dairy New Zealand Franklin Local Board, Auckland Council New Zealand Forest Owners Association Young Farmers Rural Women New Zealand Federated Farmers Rural Contractors New Zealand Fonterra Shareholders Council Beef and Lamb New Zealand Federated Farmers Rural Contractors New Zealand Horticulture New Zealand Aggregate and Quarry Association Equine Industry New Zealand Forest Owners Association Waitākere Ranges Local Board, Auckland Council Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Independent Māori Statutory Board
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(Quorum 10 members)

**Sandra Gordon**  
**Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere Matua / Senior Governance Advisor**

**2 May 2022**

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**Note:** The reports contained within this agenda are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Members require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.



## Terms of Reference

*(Excerpt – full terms of reference available as a separate document)*

The terms of reference set out the purpose, role and protocols of the Auckland Council Rural Advisory Panel for the 2019-2022 term of the council. Panel members must abide by the Code of Conduct for Members of Auckland Council Advisory Panels.

### **Purpose**

As one of council's engagement mechanisms with the rural sector in Auckland, the Rural Advisory Panel provides advice to the council within the remit of the Auckland Plan on the following areas:

- council policies, plans and strategies relevant to rural issues
- regional and strategic matters relevant to rural issues
- any matter of particular interest or concern to rural communities.

### **Outcomes**

The panel's advice will contribute to improving the outcomes of the rural sector as set out in the Auckland Plan. The panel will provide advice through its agreed work programme.

### **Work programme**

The panel must develop a work programme for the term. The agendas should be focused and aligned with the Auckland Plan and the long-term plan.

### **Submissions**

The panel cannot make formal submissions to Auckland Council on council strategies, policies and plans, for example, the annual plan. However, the panel may be asked for informal feedback during a consultative process.

In its advisory role to the council, the panel may have input into submissions made by the council to external organisations but does not make independent submissions, except as agreed with the council.

This does not prevent individual members being party to submissions outside their role as panel members.

### **Review**

The form and functioning of the panel may be reviewed prior to or after, the end of the year 2022.



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## 1 Apologies

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

## 2 Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

## 3 Confirmation of Minutes

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on Friday, 4 February 2022 as a true and correct record.

## 4 Extraordinary Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
  - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
  - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
  - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
  - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”



## Chair's update

File No.: CP2022/04665

### Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To tūtohi / receive an update from the Chairperson, Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The Deputy Mayor will discuss matters of relevance to the rural sector.

### Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) tūtohi / receive the update from the Chairperson, Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore.

### Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

### Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Author	Sandra Gordon - Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere Matua / Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser	Warren Maclennan – Lead Officer



## Essential Freshwater update - Auckland Council staff input into regulatory instruments and guidance publications

File No.: CP2022/04795

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose of the report

1. To provide an update on the central government *Essential Freshwater* programme, following the report to the last Rural Advisory Panel meeting of 4 February 2022.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua

#### Executive summary

2. Central government's *Essential Freshwater* programme has several regulatory instruments effective from 3 September 2020. Instruments of relevance to this update include:
  - a) the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM)
  - b) the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Management 2020 (NES-F)
  - c) the proposed Resource Management (Farm Planning) Regulations 2022.
3. As previously advised, the regulatory instruments in place were adopted by central government at pace, and various implementation concerns arose. Central government has been working with various interests to address these concerns since that time. Remedies have principally included regulatory amendment proposals throughout the latter half of 2021, further technical documents, and implementation guidance documents.

#### Auckland Council feedback to central government

4. No new significant central government discussion documents have been released for feedback on elements of the Essential Freshwater package since the last Rural Advisory Panel meeting on 4 February 2022.
5. Appropriately, central government staff have focused on the implementation needs and deficiencies associated with the 2020 regulatory instruments, partly through regulatory amendment proposals canvassed in the second half of 2021.
6. A summary of submissions document has been published on the following July 2021 regulatory proposal, with others likely to be published before August 2022:
  - a) Freshwater farm planning regulations: Summary of Submissions (published 23 February 2022) - [Freshwater farm plan regulations summary of submissions | Ministry for the Environment](#)
7. Further informal regional sector staff technical feedback has been provided to central government staff on initiatives encompassed by the Essential Freshwater package, including the following elements of the identified regulatory instruments.
  - a) *Intensive Winter Grazing*:
    - i) as previously advised, the Minister for the Environment (Minister) has agreed that a quarterly report for the period October to December 2021 is not necessary. A report to the Minister for the period up to March 2022 is due on 1 May 2022. This will note preparatory work undertaken by the regional sector on compliance plans for winter 2022, in conjunction with agricultural interests

- ii) the regional sector's commissioned satellite imagery baseline research from the 2021 winter, as undertaken by Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, is making good progress. The contractor's dataset and report are likely to be finalised by June 2022. Satellite imagery needs for the 2022 winter season is also being considered
  - iii) following central government proposals of August 2021 to address implementation concerns, an exposure draft of the regulatory amendments for intensive winter grazing have been shared in confidence with some southern councils during March 2022. After that, the revised regulatory drafting will be incorporated into the broader NES-F regulatory amendment exposure draft expected for council staff review no sooner than May 2022. Regulatory changes for intensive winter grazing are intended to be made in the months prior to the deferred regulatory effective date of 1 November 2022.
  - iv) Central government officials have now published a summary of submissions received on intensive winter grazing proposals, as well as their report and recommendations to the Minister for the Environment, as follows:
    - [Managing intensive winter grazing: Summary of submissions | Ministry for the Environment](#) (published 14 April 2022)
    - [Report and recommendations on intensive winter grazing amendments | Ministry for the Environment](#) (published 14 April 2022)
- b) *Natural Wetland definition:*
- i) MfE, in partnership with Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, is developing a methodology for assessment of the 'pasture exclusion' from the definition of a 'natural wetland' in the NPS-FM. A field manual for the methodology will be published by approximately August 2022
  - ii) an MfE stakeholder workshop on the National Pastoral Exclusion Assessment Method was held on 15 March 2022 with council staff, consultants, and agricultural representative groups. The aim of this workshop was to gather stakeholder feedback on the proposed approach to inform; key problems the methodology aims to solve, stakeholder experiences in the field, and any other feedback to help shape the methodology and field manual development. This will help inform the drafting of regulatory amendments by central government staff.
- c) *Coastal Wetlands:*
- i) in December 2021, representatives from four northern councils (including Auckland) wrote to either the Minister or senior Ministry for the Environment staff expressing concerns about the November 2021 High Court decision<sup>1</sup>, which confirmed that, technically, the natural wetland provisions used in the NES-F apply to the coastal marine area (CMA)
  - ii) at the 4 February 2022 Rural Advisory Panel meeting, strategy staff advised of Auckland Council's ongoing consideration of how coastal wetlands were captured by the NES-F and NPS-FM legislative construct, even though the specific NES-F regulatory provisions were focused on managing activities typically undertaken on land (e.g. earthworks, vegetation removal)

<sup>1</sup> Minister of Conservation v Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society Incorporated [2021] NZHC 3113 [18 November 2021].

- iii) following the November 2021 High Court decision, Auckland Council's originally published consenting guidance (October 2021) on the NES-F wetland provisions was updated and republished (March 2022 weblink follows) with an interim position, with a view to a further update of the 'Practice and Guidance Note' when central government's regulatory amendment decisions are known (after August 2022) - <https://content.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/regulations/practice-notes/Documents/RC-3-3-21-Managing-Natural-Wetlands-under-NES.pdf>
  - iv) central government departments are presently drafting regulatory amendments that involve a generic approach of defining how far out the NES-F would apply in the CMA (e.g. estuaries), with some exemptions for specified activities
  - v) the proposed central government regulatory drafting approach does not address the fundamental concerns of the regional sector, as it relates to the appropriate management of a broader range of activities through regional coastal plan provisions in the CMA, as distinct from the kind of land-based activities that would be managed through the NES-F. A further regional sector letter from the four northern regional councils, dated 25 March 2022, has been sent to the Director-General of Conservation and the Chief Executive of the Ministry for the Environment seeking a regulatory drafting approach where the NES-F does not extend into the CMA. The regional sector views have been noted in recent advice to the Minister.
  - vi) the exposure draft of the NES-F regulatory provisions for coastal wetlands (and other wetland issues) are due to be circulated for specialist council staff review no sooner than May 2022. Subsequent regulatory amendments are not expected to be gazetted until approximately August 2022.
- d) *Fish passage:*
- i) [Fish passage action plan guidance | Ministry for the Environment](#) (published 19 April 2022)
  - ii) [Fish passage action plan template | Ministry for the Environment](#) (published 19 April 2022)
  - iii) a training video for how to use the Fish Passage Action Plan and template, along with an instruction sheet for how data should be collected to comply with NES-F requirements, is expected to be delivered by mid-year.
- e) *Nitrogen cap national database:*
- i) The regional sector's information technology and regulatory staff are working with fertiliser companies on a national database to capture farmer's use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser, where the application rate (more than 190 kg/ha/year) is required to be consented (subpart 4, NES-F).
- f) *Fish Index of Biotic Integrity:*
- i) the Fish IBI is a set of biological metrics used to assess the richness of fish species by comparing the species present at a site to the species that would be expected in the absence of human impacts. The Fish IBI was adapted for application in New Zealand in 2004. Fish IBI was incorporated as an attribute in the NPS-FM and requires councils to sample fish abundance to calculate Fish IBI scores, such that future target states for this attribute can be achieved
  - ii) the Ministry for the Environment is due to publish in May 2022 a calculator app and user guidance to assist practitioners with determining Fish Index of Biotic Integrity (Fish IBI) scores. This follows its development by a scientific contractor, and review by regional sector specialists.

## Guidance documents / reports published

8. As previously signalled, there are some new technical guidance documents and other published central government material since the last Rural Advisory Panel update of February 2022. These include:
- Implementing makinga kai as a Māori freshwater value (published 15 February 2022) - [Mahinga kai kete | Ministry for the Environment](#)
  - Stockholding definition guidance (published 25 March 2022) - [Stockholding definition guidance | Ministry for the Environment](#)
  - Te Mana o te Wai report (published 4 February 2022), setting out Kāhui Wai Māori 2019 recommendations to the Minister, for the nation's journey together in implementing a managed transition to a new system of care and respect for water; and two associated Kāhui Wai Māori reports to the Minister.
    - [Te Mana o te Wai: The health of our wai, the health of our nation: Kāhui Wai Māori report to Hon Minister David Parker | Ministry for the Environment](#)
    - [Te-Mana-o-Te-Wai-Mana-Whakahaere.pdf \(environment.govt.nz\)](#) (published August 2021)
    - [Te-Mana-o-te-Wai-Maori-Rights-and-Interests-in-Freshwater-Bodies.pdf \(environment.govt.nz\)](#) (published August 2021).
  - [Water quality state and trends in New Zealand rivers: Analyses of national data ending in 2020 | Ministry for the Environment](#) (published 14 April 2022)
  - [Spatial modelling of lake water quality state: Incorporating monitoring data for the period 2016 to 2020 | Ministry for the Environment](#) (published 14 April 2022).
9. Rural Advisory Panel members are encouraged to read the documents encompassed by this Essential Freshwater update and ensure their networks are also aware of this material. In addition, the Ministry for the Environment has published (5 April 2022) a forecast of upcoming guidance and technical information, some of which is discussed in this report, available at the following Ministry weblink: [Recent and upcoming Essential Freshwater implementation guidance | Ministry for the Environment](#)

## Regulatory and planning updates

### Sediment management

- Environmental advocates produced a video in mid-2021 that sought to highlight sediment discharges from small building sites in the Auckland region, as well as intensive winter grazing in Southland. Some of the footage in Auckland was from 2018, although the issue is still a valid and current concern. Within the Regulatory Services division, the Proactive Compliance Unit continues to seek improved sediment control measures in the Auckland region.
- The Minister has taken a strong interest in better understanding the current policies and practices that lead to sediment discharges, and what compliance and enforcement activities have been undertaken in both rural and urban settings. The Minister has sought and received replies from all regional and unitary authorities prior to February 2022.

### Specified Vegetable Growing Areas, as specified in section 3.33 of the NPS-FM

- The High Court decision on matters related to the Horowhenua specified vegetable growing area is expected by early May 2022. This follows a case brought by tangata whenua groups against central government's introduction of the exemption provision within the NPS-FM.

13. The High Court decision may have generic implications for how central government and Auckland Council pursue outcomes for the Pukekohe specified vegetable growing area. Auckland Council strategy, policy and technical staff will virtually meet with Horizons Regional Council staff in mid-May to further discuss the implications of the High Court's decision. A brief verbal overview of the key points of the decision can be noted at the Rural Advisory Panel's May 2022 meeting should it be available.
14. Regardless of the High Court's decision, there are several policy and technical matters to clarify on how to reduce nitrate and associated discharges from horticultural areas. Auckland Council staff continue to pursue scientific and other investigations on potential mitigation options, for consideration in both regulatory and non-regulatory discussions.
15. A Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) scientific study commissioned by strategy staff in December 2020 on the age of groundwater in the Pukekohe area is due before June 2022. Further GNS research, commissioned by Natural Environment Strategy staff and Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) staff on Pukekohe stream water chemistry from groundwater surface discharges is proposed to be undertaken between June 2022 and early 2024.

#### Farm planning

16. Increased staff resources are being applied by central government, regional sector staff, and agricultural sector representatives to develop farm planning regulations. Several central government workshops continue to be held, with themes such as system design, database interoperability, compliance and enforcement, certification and auditing etc. The regulations are expected to be gazetted by the end of 2022, following further Cabinet decisions in coming months. An exposure draft of the proposed regulations should be available to the regional sector and agricultural representative groups by mid-year for review.
17. Within Auckland Council, the Regulatory Services division, fulfilling the environmental regulator role, is responsible for administering and communicating the statutory requirements associated with implementation of farm plans provisions, and coordinating the input of other departments who can contribute their relevant expertise in the lead-up to implementation. The Compliance Monitoring Unit of Regulatory Services (led by Manager Compliance Monitoring Robert Laulala) have recently started to undertake preparatory work to improve council systems and processes associated with their administration of these future regulations and inter-relationship with related consenting requirements.
18. Central government recognise that implementation of the farm planning regulatory instrument and supporting architecture and capability is a significant commitment for all parties. Central government staff have advised that they are contemplating a phased roll-out of the farm plan regulations once the regulations are in place. This will allow system testing and piloting in some regions before the requirements become effective across a broader geographic area. Similarly, the capacity and capability of the agricultural and regional sector will need to grow to ensure durable and robust implementation. A progressive rollout is therefore sensible to ensure success. The regional sector will continue to advocate for a ground-truthed approach, such that regulatory provisions are practical to implement.

#### NPS-FM update

19. Plans and Places have been undertaking preparation for NPS-FM engagement with a wider range of external interests from June 2022, including the rural sector.

## Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) receive the update on central government's Essential Freshwater programme and the overview of recent Auckland Council staff input to improve implementation steps and any refinements to the regulatory framework and its interpretation.

## Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

## Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Dave Allen - Manager Natural Environment Strategy Ella Walsh - Analyst Natural Environment Strategy
Authorisers	Jacques Victor - General Manager Auckland Plan Strategy and Research Warren MacLennan - Lead Officer

Item 6

## Healthy Waters regular update

File No.: CP2022/05081

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose of the report

1. To provide an update on Healthy Waters' current operational work affecting the rural sector.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua

#### Executive summary

2. This report provides updates on current priority issues for Healthy Waters in the rural sector.
3. A further update report will be provided to the panel at its August 2022 business meeting.

#### Flood response

4. On 21 March 2022, a rain event occurred affecting northern and central Auckland. Significant rainfall totals were measured between 5.00am to 11.00am with many locations in the northern and central areas receiving greater than 90 mm of rainfall in less than a 6-hour period.
5. Three of the top 10 recorded rainfall totals for the period from 12am to 12pm on March 21st were in rural areas as per the table below.

Site	10 min	20 min	30 min	60 min	Total
Hoteo	16.5	28.5	41.5	78.5	122.5
Mahurangi	18	32	43.5	68	115
Paremoremo	18	29	38.5	66	97.5

Table 1: Rainfall rural northern sites 21 March 2022

6. Seventy per cent of the region's urban catchments were affected by a one in 50-year event. While other parts of the region were affected by the event, the rainfall was of lesser magnitude. As a result, the requests for service (RfS) received by Healthy Waters differed from those received after the August 2021 floods, with the RfS locations concentrated predominantly in the urban areas of the North Shore and Central Auckland where the path of the storm tracked.
7. The operational response for this event was initiated the week before on Thursday 17 March when long-range forecasts indicated potential rainfall events for the coming weekend. The forecasted rain initiated proactive maintenance and inspections of regional hotspot locations prior to this event, and contractors and operational staff were informed of the potential event.
8. Healthy Waters received 667 flooding requests for service on Monday 21 March, and additional staff were mobilised during the event to assist with the response.
9. Based on the flooding that occurred and the volume of rainfall, in most cases the primary stormwater system (pipes and built assets) performed as expected during this event. The extreme nature of the rainfall seen during these events in many cases overwhelmed the primary system and are not designed to convey the extreme flows these events bring.
10. These flooding events generally occurred in areas previously modelled as flood plains or overland flow paths. Recent work to refresh the flood mapping supports our operational maintenance and response to increased rainfall.

### Sediment reduction in Hōteu

11. Sediment is a universally important contaminant, affecting both freshwater and coastal, with instantaneous and long-lasting effects.
12. The Hōteu project is a 5-year project, co-funded by Auckland Council (AC) and the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund. AC has partnered with Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngā Maunga Whakahi o Kaipara and Te Uri o Hau (Kaipara Uri) in co-leadership, which has led to greater alignment of Te Ao Māori and Western Science outcomes being delivered simultaneously, to the challenge of how best to manage for stream erosion. This includes recent findings that streambank erosion contributed 72 per cent of fine-grained sediment carried by the Hōteu River into the Kaipara Moana
13. The Hōteu project has identified a range of Geomorphically Effective Management Solutions (GEMS) to be trialled at locations along a 12-km stretch of the Kourawhero Stream in the Hōteu River Catchment, to stabilise stream banks and reduce fine-grained sediment loads from entering the Kaipara Moana. GEMS are a toolbox of mitigations to modify the geomorphology for the purpose of reducing erosion - including but going beyond stock exclusion and untargeted riparian planting. GEMS include solutions to work with stream hydrology, profile and soil characteristics and to identify effective solutions that take into account the risk and form of the stream.
14. A key learning for the Hōteu project, which is about to enter the final year, has been the alignment and complementary paradigms of geomorphology and both Te Ao Māori and mātauranga Māori.
15. This project contributes to delivering the requirements set by the Essential Freshwaters programme and informs the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme.

### Roll-out of onsite wastewater system monitoring

16. Since the previous update to the Rural Advisory Panel on the onsite wastewater system compliance programme in November 2021. Staff have now completed the development of SAP processes to support region-wide monitoring of onsite wastewater systems. This includes over 45,000 systems being recorded in SAP.
17. From June 2022, Auckland Council will request maintenance records from owners of properties with these systems. If an onsite wastewater system is not performing adequately, or if the property owner fails to supply adequate maintenance records, the council will apply a graduated enforcement approach.
18. The SAP development enables staff to easily update information on each system, monitor consent requirements, and communicate with property owners to fix problems.
19. It is anticipated that by mid-2026, council will hold maintenance information on each of these systems. This is based on the capacity of the service industry to meet demand for maintenance, and staff to follow-up with non-compliance.

Continued engagement with service companies, local boards, residents and community groups will be critical to supporting property owners to meet council's requirements.

### Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) receive the update on Healthy Waters' current operational work affecting the rural sector

## Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

## Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Elizabeth Johnson – Senior Specialist, Wai Ora Strategic Programmes Andrew Chin – Head of Healthy Waters Strategy
Authorisers	Craig Mcilroy – General Manager Healthy Waters Barry Potter – Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services Warren Maclennan - Lead Officer



## Government's new housing rules for Auckland - have your say

File No.: CP2022/05335

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose of the report

1. To provide background on the Council's draft response to the Government's new rules on urban intensification for Auckland and to seek feedback from Panel members.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua

#### Executive summary

2. Auckland Council has requested public feedback on its draft proposals to enable residential intensification of urban Auckland. This has come about from the Government's two recent planning reforms which require the Council to implement:
  - The National Policy Statement on Urban Development provisions which require the Council to enable buildings of six storeys or more within walking distances to the city centre, large metropolitan centres and around train stations and bus stations on the Northern Busway. Greater heights and densities are also to be enabled within and around other suburban centres.
  - The Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other matters) Amendment Act requires the Council to enable more medium density housing of up to three units of three storeys across almost all Auckland suburbs.
3. Attachment 1 outlines the Council's preliminary response to the above Government rules and feedback on these proposals in open until 9 May.
4. As these changes are largely focused on urban Auckland and rural settlements of over 5 000 population at the 2018 census, few changes are proposed for rural settlements.
5. Within Franklin, it is proposed that a walkable Catchment be placed around the train station. This means that buildings of up to six storeys or more must be enabled for an area of 800 metres around the train station (as compared with the current zoning of Terrace Housing and Apartment Buildings (THAB) with a height of five storeys). The remainder of Pukekohe is proposed to be subject to the to the Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) which will enable up to three houses of three storeys. Waiuku may also be subject to MDRS but if transport constraints such as few bus services can be taken into account as qualifying matters, this may not apply.
6. Similarly in Rodney, the only centre which could be affected by MDRS is Warkworth, although again this may not happen if the low level of lack of bus services can be taken into account. The new suburb of Milldale, adjacent to State Highway One near Millwater on the Hibiscus Coast may also be affected but is subject to a precinct and it is not yet clear as to its status.
7. A PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the meeting.

### Ngā tūtohunga

#### Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) receive the update on the Council's preliminary response to the Government's urban intensification rules and provide feedback at the meeting.

Item 8

## Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A 	Aucklanders can have their say on new high-density housing rules	23

## Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authoriser	Warren MacLennan - Lead Officer
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28/04/2022, 12:21

Aucklanders can have their say on new high-density housing rules - OurAuckland

NEWS

## Aucklanders can have their say on new high-density housing rules

Publish Date : 19 Apr 2022    DEVELOPMENT    GROWING TOGETHER



Auckland Council has today opened public consultation on some proposed approaches for changing the city’s planning rulebook – the Auckland Unitary Plan – as part of implementing central government’s new requirements for greater housing density across the city.

<https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2022/04/aucklanders-can-have-their-say-on-new-high-density-housing-rules/>

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Attachment A

28/04/2022, 12:21

Aucklanders can have their say on new high-density housing rules - OurAuckland

Aucklanders can have their say from Tuesday 19 April to Monday 9 May 2022 and view draft planning maps showing where greater building height and density is required. This is available at [akhaveyoursay.nz/housing](https://akhaveyoursay.nz/housing)

Central government's housing requirements include apartments of six storeys or more in and around large urban centres with jobs, shops, community services and rapid transit stops. And more medium-density housing of up to three storeys across almost all Auckland suburbs.

Councillor Chris Darby, chair of the council's Planning Committee, says he is encouraging all Aucklanders to have their say to help the council prepare its changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan that must be publicly notified by 20 August 2022.

"Central government has come in strongly with how it wants Auckland to grow by requiring greater building height and density across our city, meaning big and at times complex changes in the years ahead.

"The majority of the government's changes are mandatory. Where we do have scope to make some limited decisions, we're working hard to make sure they meet the needs of our growing city.

"How our city grows is an important issue for all Aucklanders, the decisions that will be made will shape not only how Aucklanders live today but also how we meet the housing needs of future generations," says Councillor Darby.

### **Government's new rules**

There are two significant central government planning reforms that the council is required to implement.

The National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) requires the council to enable buildings of six storeys or more within walking distances to our city centre, 10 large metropolitan centres and around train stations and stops on the Northern Busway. It also requires the council to enable greater heights and density within and around Auckland's other suburban centres.

The Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act passed in December 2021, requires the council to enable more medium-density housing of up to three storeys across almost all Auckland suburbs.

The Act also requires the council to replace its existing design standards (or rules) with the government's new standards for developments, such as building setbacks from boundaries and minimum size requirements for outdoors living spaces.

<https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2022/04/aucklanders-can-have-their-say-on-new-high-density-housing-rules/>

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Item 8

Attachment A

28/04/2022, 12:21

Aucklanders can have their say on new high-density housing rules - OurAuckland

John Duguid, General Manager of Plans and Places, says there is still a long way to go before final changes are decided.

“Right now, the council has put out some proposed approaches for Aucklanders to have their say on whether we’ve struck the right balance between the requirement to enable more housing density and protecting the things many Aucklanders value such as sites of cultural, historic, or ecological significance.

“This consultation isn’t a government requirement. Rather, as we’ve done previously with the Auckland Unitary Plan, we have chosen to give Aucklanders an early say ahead of publicly notifying a plan change in August for public submissions.

“We want to hear people’s views on our approach to some of the limited things we can decide, including on our proposed exemptions to reduce mandated building heights.

“The government allows for some exemptions, called ‘qualifying matters’ to reduce its mandated building heights. But we can’t use these without providing strong evidence to prove why further housing density should be limited, and this needs to be justified against the government’s clear requirements to allow more housing density,” says John Duguid.

### **What we are asking for feedback on**

The council is seeking feedback on some proposed changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan that we have scope to make limited decisions on, these include:

- The size of the walking distances (‘walkable catchments’) where buildings of six storeys or more must be enabled
- The size of the areas around our suburban town and local centres where additional height and density of buildings can occur, and what the building height and density limits should be
- The ‘qualifying matters’ the council has identified as relevant and important for Auckland. These are the characteristics within some areas that may allow the council to reduce building heights and density, which include identified special character areas and important local public views.

### **Further opportunities to have your say**

Feedback received from Aucklanders will help to inform the council’s proposed plan change to the Auckland Unitary Plan which must be publicly notified by 20 August 2022.

This will be an important second opportunity for people to have their say on the council’s proposed plan change by making a submission so their views can be

<https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2022/04/aucklanders-can-have-their-say-on-new-high-density-housing-rules/>

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28/04/2022, 12:21

Aucklanders can have their say on new high-density housing rules - OurAuckland

considered by an independent panel during statutory decision-making.

As required by the government, an Independent Hearings Panel will consider all submissions, hear from submitters, and then make recommendations to the council on changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan.

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## Preliminary discussion on the work of the Rural Advisory Panel 2020-2022

File No.: CP2022/05347

### Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To start a discussion on the work of the Rural Advisory Panel during the current electoral term.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The next meeting in August will be the last one of the current term of Council. It is therefore useful to start the process of reviewing the work of the panel to assess:
  - The achievements of the panel over the past three years
  - The range of topics addressed
  - What has gone well and what could be improved
  - The effect of COVID-19 – on-line versus face-to-face meetings
  - Membership representation
3. Prior to the next meeting, a survey is likely to be sent to members to capture views on the above topics. Results from this will be shared at the August meeting and then used to develop an end of term report to the present council and recommendations to the incoming Mayor to inform future arrangements.
4. To assist the discussion a Power point presentation will be provided at the meeting.

### Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) provide initial feedback on the work on the Rural Advisory Panel over the 2020-2022 term.

### Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

### Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authoriser	Warren Maclennan - Lead Officer
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