

22 July 2026

Hon Nicola Grigg,
Minister for the Environment
8 Willis St, Wellington 6011

CC:

Mayor Janet Holborow By email: janet.holborow@kapiticoast.govt.nz

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**Request for extension of time to notify decision on Proposed Plan Change 3 –
Kārewarewa Urupā (PC3) to the Operative Kapiti Coast District Plan 2021**

Tēnā koe Minister,

I am writing to seek an extension of time for Council to notify its decision on [Proposed Plan Change 3 – Kārewarewa Urupā \(PC3\)](#)¹ to the Operative Kapiti Coast District Plan 2021 (District Plan / the Plan), under clause 10A of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)²:

- The Council seeks an extension of five months, from 18 September 2026 to 18 February 2027.
- This request follows on from [Minister Bishop's letter of 28 January 2026](#), approving exemption of the Council's application in full, allowing PC3 to proceed through the plan change process. Council's exemption original application related to Minister Bishop's approval is attached for your information to this letter.

Background to request

The extension sought is limited to the period of delay caused by the Government's Plan Stop requirements and the associated Ministerial exemption process for PC3. Of note and for your consideration:

¹ PC3 implements a High Court decision and gives effect to a Waitangi Tribunal recommendation relating to the protection of Kārewarewa Urupā. It seeks to recognise and provide for Kārewarewa Urupā as a site of significance to Māori by adding Kārewarewa Urupā to Schedule 9 of the District Plan and amending the District Plan maps accordingly.

² Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Schedule 1, clause 10A ([Application to Minister for extension of time](#)).

- PC3 was publicly notified on 18 September 2024 in line with legislative requirements at that time. Following the close of further submissions on the late submission on 14 March 2025, the Council progressed the next procedural steps, including arrangements to set up an independent hearings panel.
- When the Government announced its Plan-Stop policy in mid-2025, this Plan change was required to stop. Whilst the Minister's exemption in January 2026 has allowed PC3 to proceed, the time required to prepare, lodge and obtain the exemption decision caused a material delay to the hearing timetable. This delay arose from circumstances outside the Council's control to commence the hearing, which was then postponed to a later date.
- You will be aware that under clause 10(4) of Schedule 1 to the RMA, the Council is required to notify its decision within two years of notification. The current statutory deadline for notifying the Council's decision is therefore 18 September 2026.
- Although progress on PC3 has resumed, under the current timetable, the Council is now unlikely to complete these steps by 18 September 2026. For clarity, the PC3 hearing was held in early June 2026, with the Panel's recommendation report now anticipated in August 2026. The Council will then need to consider the report, prepare decision documents and notify its decision which will not be possible to do by the 18 September 2026.

Grounds for Extension (clause 10A(1) and (2)) and Relevant Matters (clause 10A(3))

The Council considers there is sufficient reason to grant the extension because:

- The Plan Stop requirements and section 80V exemption process delayed PC3 reaching a hearing and reduced the time available for the Council to notify its decision by 18 September 2026.
- The delay was not caused by inactivity or unreasonable delay by the Council. Before the plan-stop provisions commenced, the Council had completed submissions and further submissions and was progressing hearing arrangements.
- Once the Plan Stop requirements came into force, the Council acted promptly by applying for an exemption, notifying PC3's status, and recommencing the hearing process once the exemption was granted. Had the plan-stop not intervened, the hearing would have been scheduled and completed within a timeframe that would have enabled the statutory deadline to be met.
- The five-month extension sought is proportionate, being the period commensurate with the delay caused by the plan-stop and exemption process. This would extend the deadline for notifying the PC3 decision to on or before 18 February 2027.
- The extension will allow sufficient time for the hearing recommendations to be properly considered and the Council's decision to be prepared and notified in a robust and orderly way. The Council remains committed to progressing PC3 as soon as practicable.

In support of this application, and having regard to the matters in clause 10A(3), the Council confirms:

- (a) The reason for the extension is the delay caused by the plan-stop direction under section 80Q of the RMA and the time required to obtain a Ministerial exemption under section 80V. Both were outside the control of the Council and directly delayed the progression of PC3 to a hearing;
- (b) The extension sought (five months) is limited to the period of delay attributable to the plan-stop and exemption process and is no greater than reasonably necessary to enable the Council to notify its decision;
- (c) No party to the plan change process will be unduly prejudiced by the extension, and the Council is not aware of any matters that would make it unreasonable to grant the extension; and
- (d) The Council remains committed to notifying its decision as soon as practicable and will continue to progress PC3 without unnecessary delay.

We look forward to your decision on this matter.

Nāku noa, nā,



Hamish McGillivray

Manager, Urban Planning and Research
Kāpiti Coast District Council