

BEFORE AUCKLAND COUNCIL'S INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL

In the Matter of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

And

In the Matter of Intensification Planning Instrument Proposed Plan Change
78 to the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part)

Submitter Richard Brabant

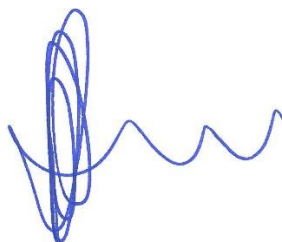
**Memorandum for 3 May IHP Conference in support of Auckland Council request
by memorandum dated 21 April 2023**

Dated 30 April 2023

Richard Brabant
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May it please the Panel

1. I support the request of the Auckland Council as PC 78 proponent that there be a pause of all hearings and alternative dispute resolution processes (reference paragraph 3, memorandum dated 21 April 2023).
2. I support the position of the Council in respect of the hearings currently scheduled for related non-intensification plan changes as listed in paragraph 4 of the memorandum.
3. In my submission, the scope of the qualifying matters that require to be addressed before PC 78 is progressed further are not limited to “natural hazards and flooding investigations work” (reference paragraph 5 of the Council 21 April 2023 memorandum).
4. The recent flooding events referred to in the letter dated 6 April 2023 from the Minister for the Environment relate to existing flooding impacts and stormwater infrastructure constraints and, as the Minister states “its implications for land-use planning, infrastructure and other policy settings.” But there is a broader issue beyond whether the intensification proposed by PC 78 as notified should be enabled in areas subject to existing flooding effects or which might be located in identified flood prone areas. As with all plan changes proposing zoning changes to enable development including intensification in existing brown-fields areas, an essential question to be addressed is whether the proposed development enabled by the plan change can be serviced appropriately upon the zoning becoming live. Provision of adequate stormwater infrastructure along with water supply and wastewater servicing must be addressed by expert assessments and evidence.
5. This has not been done in respect of PC 78, as I previously submitted.
6. This matter of stormwater capacity goes beyond consideration of provision of drainage infrastructure, stormwater treatment and the impact of stormwater discharges on receiving environments. As also referred to in the Minister’s letter, by reference to a report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment consideration should be given to retaining and enhancing urban green spaces. Much of Auckland’s urban forest is located in areas PC 78 proposes be re-zoned to enable intensification at a level which will eliminate urban forest on those intensified sites.
7. Your direction of 26 April 2023 requested submitters to advise if they consider some subtopics can be considered now rather than paused. In respect of the identified PC 78 topics, I acknowledge that topic 016 (but not locational or intensification provisions), 017, 021 (but not locational or intensification provisions), and 023 – 040 could be progressed.



Richard Brabant

30 April 2023

