

**Before the Hearings Panel
At Wellington City Council**

Under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of the Proposed Wellington City District Plan

**ISPP wrap up hearing reporting officer right of reply
Adam McCutcheon on behalf of Wellington City Council**

Date: 13 October 2023

INTRODUCTION:

1 My full name is Adam McCutcheon. I am employed as a Team Leader in the District Planning Team at Wellington City Council (the Council).

2 I have prepared this reply in respect of the matters raised during the ISPP Wrap up hearing.

3 I have listened to submitters, read their evidence and tabled statements.

4 My [Section 42A Report](#) sets out my qualifications and experience as an expert in planning.

5 I confirm that I am continuing to abide by the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses set out in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023, as applicable to this Independent Panel hearing.

6 Any data, information, facts, and assumptions I have considered in forming my opinions are set out in the part of the evidence in which I express my opinions. Where I have set out opinions in my evidence, I have given reasons for those opinions.

SCOPE OF REPLY

7 This reply follows the ISPP wrap up hearing held from 19 September 2023 to 21 September 2023.

8 Minute 36 requested that the Section 42A report authors submit a written reply as a formal response to matters raised during the hearing. The Minute requires this response by 13 October 2023.

9 This reply includes feedback on specific questions from the Panel and commentary on additional matters I consider it useful to clarify.

Māori data sovereignty

10 Commissioner Burge asked me to return with more fulsome advice on GWRC [351.4] with respect to Māori data sovereignty.

11 The Regional Council's submission seeks that 'where Māori data is used, sovereignty is upheld and data is interpreted within Te Ao Māori'.

12 The submission does not detail what the relief sought looks like in an RMA context or how it applies to the PDP.

13 Having sought an explanation of data sovereignty, I found the website for [Te Mana Raraunga](#), the Māori data sovereignty network. They offer the following explanation:

Māori Data Sovereignty recognises that Māori data should be subject to Māori governance. Māori data sovereignty supports tribal sovereignty and the realisation of Maori and Iwi aspirations.

14 I am by no means qualified to explain this further, and do not directly see it as an RMA or planning matter, but I can see how the principle has/can be applied in developing a district plan.

15 For example, the locations of sites and areas of significance to Māori were spatially identified on the planning maps, named and features identified within them by representatives of the Council's mana whenua partners. In this way mana whenua were the ones empowered to make decisions on the data that they hold such as whether they wish to identify (or not identify) features on the planning maps.

16 Based on my understanding I do not consider that any amendments are required to the provisions of the plan to address the submission point or the principle.