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Dear Salutation,

HOUSING FOR EVERYONE: PLAN CHANGE 9 (PC9) - APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

As you may be aware on 14 March 2022, an Order in Council ("OIC") was made to include Rotorua Lakes Council ("RLC" or "the Council") in the requirements of the Resource Management (Enabling Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021 ("Amendment Act"), after RLC requested to be included, based on its acute housing need. RLC's request was supported by Te Tatau o Te Arawa and Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

Rotorua's inclusion means that it is now a "specified territorial authority" under the Amendment Act, which requires RLC to amend the Rotorua District Plan. Immediately following this inclusion RLC embarked on the Housing for Everyone: Plan Change 9 ("PC9") to enable more housing and greater housing choice. The Amendment Act outlines that RLC must publicly notify PC9 by the 20 August 2022.

Once PC9 has been notified, and submissions have been received, the Council must hold a statutory hearings process that is overseen by a panel of suitably qualified independent commissioners. Internally we have mapped out the process through to the 31 March 2024 deadline, by which the plan change needs to be made operative, and it is anticipated that the hearing process will take place in August 2024.

RLC has sought Expressions of Interest ("EOI") from all registered and qualified Independent Hearings Commissioners who have completed the "Making Good Decisions" program overseen by the Ministry for the Environment. The role of Independent Hearings Commissioners on resource management plan changes is to hear submissions received on a particular plan change and to recommend to Council what decision should be made on those submissions.

Our expression of interest sought candidates that believed they met the following criteria:

- Experience and track record
- Experience in relation to Mana Whenua, Te Arawa and Iwi and Hapu.
- A working knowledge of urban design for medium density and high-density development (focus of the plan change)
- A working knowledge in relation to hazard management (a key issue associated with the plan change)

Based on these criteria, Council has shortlisted potential Commissioners and identified a preferred panel. In accordance with the Amendment Act, before formally establishing the Panel Council is required to consult tāngata whenua on whether it is appropriate to appoint a member of the panel with an understanding of tikanga Māori and of the perspectives of local Iwi and Hapū.

Council considers it essential that we have Te Arawa representation on the panel. In this regard, we have recommended that Steven Wilson serve on the Hearings Panel. He is from Te Arawa, specifically Ngāti Tura Te Ngākau and Tapuika (Ngāti Marukūkere). He has prepared responses and participated in processes for natural resources matters as part of Ngāti Tura Te Ngākau. He was also the inaugural chair

for the Ngāti Tura Te Ngākau Post Settlement Governance Entity and he is the former chair of Parawai Marae Committee. He is also Deputy Chair of the Environmental Protection Authority.

We have further short listed the following as potential Commissioners based on the criteria above:

- David Hill
- Rob Van Voorthuysen
- Alan Matheson
- Brad Coombs
- Richard Blakey

The shortlisted Commissioners and the preferred panel will be tabled for approval with Councillors at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting held 4 August 2022. Once the date of the hearing is determined, the Chief Executive Officer will officially appoint the confirmed three Hearings Commissioners

Should you wish to discuss the above please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours faithfully