IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of resource consent applications by **Gisborne District Council – Community Lifelines** for construction and upgrading of approximately 4.2 kilometres of stopbanks, associated earthworks, road raising, drainage and stormwater infrastructure, works within and adjacent to the Waipaoa River, temporary water take and discharge activities during construction, vegetation clearance, temporary access works, service relocations, and landscape planting and site reinstatement.

SECTION 41 RMA - DIRECTION #8

INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Direction is to advise of an extension to timeframes in relation to making a decision on the applications.

DIRECTIONS

2. The Hearing Panel is presently completing its deliberations and preparation of its decision on the resource consent applications for the Te Karaka Stopbank Upgrade.

3. The Panel considers that a short extension of the statutory timeframe for issuing its decision is necessary. The applications raise a number of complex and interrelated matters requiring careful consideration, including flood and consequential flood effects, effects on affected properties and productive land, tangata whenua matters, and the application of the relevant statutory and planning framework.

4. In addition, the Panel has had to continue its deliberations following the recusal of one of the appointed Commissioners from the Panel. This has added to the work required of the remaining Panel members in completing the decision.

5. Under ss 37 and 37A of the Resource Management Act 1991, a consent authority may extend the applicable statutory timeframe where special circumstances apply, including circumstances arising from the scale or complexity of the matter. In exercising that power, the consent authority is required to take into account the interests of persons directly affected by the extension, the interests of the community in achieving an

adequate assessment of the effects of the proposal, and the duty under s 21 to avoid unreasonable delay.

6. The Panel has considered those matters. Given the complexity of the applications and the circumstances affecting the composition of the Panel, we consider that a short extension is warranted to enable the Panel to properly complete its deliberations and decision. We consider that the interests of the parties and the wider community are better served by allowing that additional time to complete a considered decision than by compromising that process in order to meet the existing timeframe. The extension sought is limited to what the Panel considers reasonably necessary and does not constitute unreasonable delay.

7. Accordingly, pursuant to ss 37 and 37A of the Act, the timeframe for issuing the Panel's decision is extended by five working days, from Monday 09 November 2026 to Monday 16 November 2026.

8. Any enquiries regarding this Direction or related matters should be directed to the Council at NotifiedRC@gdc.govt.nz.



Cam Twigley (Chair)
Independent Hearing Panel

Date: 03 November 2026