

## Proposal I Marlborough Urban Design Panel

### What?

An Urban Design Panel is a group of leading built-environment professionals who provide free, independent design review for both the private and public sectors, to ensure high quality design outcomes. The Urban Design Panel is not a decision-making body for resource consent applications, however, its recommendations may be considered among other matters, by a planner processing a resource consent.

### Why?

The purpose of the panel is to provide urban design advice in a positive way to assist in achieving high-quality design outcomes and help with any resource consent process.

### Benefits (Captured in MFE Report – Urban Design Panels; A National Stocktake

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/urban-design-panels.pdf>)

- The differing viewpoints and areas of expertise of panel members helps keep the discussion balanced;
- Acceptance of the panel's reporting is good, because many developers see the panel's reporting as an assessment by a 'jury of peers' rather than engaging in a two-way conversation with the council;
- Separation from the council's in-house assessment is beneficial, and the impartiality of a panel improves the quality of the outcomes;
- The degree of scrutiny a project can receive at an early stage is beneficial;
- Better-resolved designs are lodged as consents save time and money, for both applicants and councils.

## **How?**

A panel review meeting involves a group of Panellists (planners, architects, landscape architects, heritage, iwi, urban designers etc.) meeting with a developer and discussing their project to understand the design objectives, constraints and outcomes sought. The earlier the Panel can review a proposal, the more helpful their advice, and the easier it will be to act on their recommendations. This can include:

- General design principles including scale, composition and architecture;
- Subdivision design, including recognition of the local context, and provision for diversity in housing and neighbourhood types;
- The relationship of the building to the street, public spaces and surrounding natural and built features;
- The design of pedestrian and vehicle entrances;
- The establishment and improvement of connectivity;
- The amenity and quality of outdoor spaces and places;
- How to integrate artworks into the development;
- Sustainability principles including lot layout and design, water heating, lighting, heating, stormwater management and energy use minimisation;
- Safety for users and passers by;
- Outlook, sunlight access, visual and acoustic privacy, ventilation, size and design;
- Protection of listed heritage buildings, sites and trees;
- The process being undertaken through design and development to ensure a quality urban design outcome is achieved.

## **When?**

A series of triggers identify proposals that would benefit from independent design review (due to their scale, complexity and/or sensitivity of their location). In addition, the triggers reflect the parts of the District Plan where urban design control applies.

## **Existing Panels**

Christchurch, Auckland, Tasman, Queenstown Lakes, Whangarei, Hamilton