

11 April 2022

Freshwater Hearings Panel
Chair and Freshwater Commissioner

Dear Commissioners

RE: Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement

Ref: Freshwater hearings Panel Minute 2 dated 18 Mar2022

The Central Otago Heritage Trust (COHT) shares your concern regarding the likelihood of delays in considering matters which are unlikely to be linked to freshwater issues. Consequently, we favour the proposition that a second panel be established to make decisions under Schedule 1 processes which, we understand could include the *Topic, Cultural Values*, on which we have made a submission.

The COHT considers that this submission raises important matters which require the Hearing's urgent attention. Not the least of these being that the Central Otago District Council is only now beginning to review its District Plan's heritage provisions, last updated in 2008. The Trust believes that the CODC review would benefit were it to be informed by the future direction of heritage policy development likely to emerge from the Hearing.

Given the above, should it not be possible to adopt your proposal of two panels, the COHT requests that the *Topic, Heritage Values*, while not apparently a freshwater matter, be included amongst those matters to be considered under Part 4 for the reason of urgency. We also request that the Panel include at least one Commissioner with qualifications and experience in cultural and heritage matters.

Respectfully,



Graye Shattky MBE (Mil), psc,
for COHT