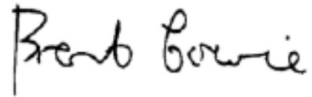


MANAWATU-WANGANUI REGIONAL COUNCIL
ONE PLAN
PLAN CHANGE 2 - EXISTING INTENSIVE FARMING LAND USES
MINUTE 5 OF THE INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

1. This is the fifth minute of the independent hearing panel. It responds to concerns raised by two representatives of submitters; the two submitters being the Director General of Conservation and Ngāti Raukawa. Concerns were raised in relation to the programme for expert conferencing; in particular, the timing of conferencing, availability of experts, and provision of information.
2. The need for expert conferencing in July 2020 is not a new matter for hearing participants. Our first minute of 27 February 2020 established the programme and sequence of expected engagement with submitters, which also included specific reference to expert conferencing. Our minute of 22 June 2020 set out a programme for the process, reactivating this sequence of events post the COVID-19 delays, with expert conferencing signalled to occur in July 2020, leading towards a hearing starting 12 October 2020. We also understand that MWRC website has shown an indicative timetable (including expert conferencing) for some months.
3. The purpose of the pre-hearing and expert conferencing processes is to identify and narrow the issues in contention. Our expectation was that parties would identify experts and begin to identify issues for expert conferencing during pre-hearing meetings. We understand that many parties have worked positively with Council officers in doing so. This work should continue as per our earlier directions, and we encourage the parties to work constructively with Council officers in making available experts to conference over July 2020. After this initial period of expert conferencing there is no reason why parties cannot continue to engage up to, and during, the hearing as necessary (and without the need for direction from the hearing panel), in furthering discussions over narrowing or resolving issues between them. The hearing panel itself may require further conferencing over time.
4. At this time we therefore see no reason to alter the programme identified in our June 2020 minute. All parties calling technical evidence should participate in the expert conferencing being co-ordinated by Council Officers. Our expectation remains that the joint conference statement for each topic will be signed by all attendees, list matters of agreement and disagreement between the parties, and the reasons for any disagreements.
5. If parties are yet to advise Council officers of experts they intend to call as part of their case to the Hearing Panel, they must do so without delay. As the expert conferencing programme is scheduled to begin from 20 July, submitters should confirm their experts to participate in conferencing by 12noon Friday 17 July 2020.
6. Similarly, all parties, including Council officers, intending to rely on/refer to technical information within expert conferencing must make every effort to circulate that information to participants as soon as practicable before the date the relevant expert conferencing session is to commence.

7. Any questions about this memorandum should be forwarded to Rebecca Tayler at MWRC at Rebecca.Tayler@horizons.govt.nz or direct dial telephone number, 06 952 2825. Rebecca will confer with the Commissioners as necessary.

For the Hearing Panel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Cowie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brent Cowie (Chair)

16 July 2020