

Horizons Regional Council
Winstone Pulp International Consent Applications
Hearing Panel Minute 4

1. The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the steps required to be taken following adjournment of the hearing yesterday (15 October).
2. The first step has already been completed. The Applicant and the Reporting Officer have supplied a revised set of proposed conditions, completing the task they undertook during the hearing (and which resulted in the set of conditions emailed to the parties by counsel for the Applicant on an interim basis on the evening of 14 October). A copy of the revised proposed conditions will be circulated with this Minute.
3. The second step arises out of the Reporting Officer's presentation of her section 42A report. We requested that she supply:
 - a. A written copy of her commentary on consent duration, amended to pick up any further thoughts she may have had since the hearing;
 - b. A table of consent expiry dates for third party resource consents in the Upper Whangaehu, Tokiahuru, Waitangi Water Management Sub-areas;
 - c. Any assessment or analysis she is able to provide in the time available of the extent and relevance of potential climate change effects of the end use of pellets produced from the torrefaction process, having regard to the decision of the Supreme Court in *Sustainable Otakiri Inc v Whakatāne District Council* [2025] NZSC 158.

This feedback needs to be in Ms Gunning's hands by 5pm Wednesday 21 October.

4. The third step relates to the revised conditions noted in paragraph 2 above and to the table of water quality values provided by Mr Coutinho by counsel for the applicant on the evening of 14 October by email. Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust, Pukeatua Farming Limited, and Ohakune Business Network (i.e. the submitters who appeared at the hearing) have the opportunity to provide comments in writing on either document provided such comments are received by Ms Gunning before 5pm on Friday 23 October.
5. The fourth step is provision of the Applicant's reply, which is to be provided by 5 pm on Monday 9 November.
6. It is over to the Applicant to determine what matters it should address in reply. We record, however, our request that as part of its reply, the Applicant confirm the predicted temperature range of condensate at:
 - a. The point it enters the proposed stone wetland;
 - b. The point it exits the stone wetland; and
 - c. The point of discharge to the river.

7. During the hearing we raised with a number of witnesses the question whether the cultural sensitivity of the Whangaehu River suggested a need to scrutinise with greater rigour proposed maximum contaminant parameters. We also raised the consistency of maximum contaminant parameters being specified at three times (or in some cases more) the predicted average concentration/load, given Mr Duder's evidence that the content of the discharge is expected to be relatively consistent. We request that the Applicant address these matters specifically in its reply. Our position at this point is that the Applicant needs to justify the suggested maxima against this background.
8. We also raised with counsel for the Applicant the extent and relevance of climate change effects from the end use of pellets produced from the torrefaction process (i.e. the issue we have sought assistance on from the Reporting Officer, as above). Counsel indicated that he would need to consider the matter further. We request that it be addressed as part of the Applicant's reply.
9. We record also the request we made at the hearing that as part of the Applicant's reply, it address the legal basis for the provisions the Applicant has proposed in Condition 13 of the draft Land Use Consent related to certification of the ESCP.
10. There may be other matters we request the Applicant to address in reply. In particular, we have yet to analyse Mr Coutinho's Water Quality table in depth, and doing so may generate further inquiries. We will put any such matters in a further Minute.
11. Once we have the Applicant's reply, we will review all the information we have and determine whether it is sufficient to allow us to make a decision. Assuming that is the position, we will issue formal advice that the hearing is closed, and our decision will follow.



Trevor Robinson (Hearing Panel Chair)

16 October 2026