

Horizons Regional Council
Winstone Pulp International Consent Applications
Hearing Panel Minute 3

1. Commissioner Pomare is managing an urgent family medical crisis and will be unable to participate in the hearing this week.
2. The panel's options are to go ahead as a panel of two, being Dr Ryder and myself, or to postpone the hearing.
3. Council has contacted Ngāti Rangi, who has advised that they would prefer to go ahead with Commissioner Pomare. The iwi's position is understandable. Commissioner Ryder and I would very much prefer to go ahead with Commissioner Pomare as well.
4. However, we also have to consider the applicant's interests against the background of the fact that this hearing has been delayed as it is, and we have a duty under section 21 to avoid unreasonable delay. In that regard, Council advises that if the hearing is postponed, it would likely not be able to be reconvened until after Christmas.
5. There is no easy answer in the circumstances.
6. Our current intention is to proceed this week. However, we will consider the issue properly at 9am on Wednesday morning. Whether we proceed or not will be the first procedural issue to be determined, and we will hear any objections to our doing so at that time.
7. I should record that if we do proceed, Ngāti Rangi can be assured that Commissioner Ryder and I will seek to fully understand the cultural issues it identifies with the application. In practice, that means that we will need more assistance from Ngāti Rangi than would have been the case had Commissioner Pomare been able to participate.



Trevor Robinson (Hearing Panel Chair)

12 October 2026