

BEFORE THE HEARING PANEL

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by Winstone Pulp International Limited (WPI) to the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (**APP-2006012018.02**) The discharge of up to 4,000 m³/day of treated wastewater and stormwater to the Whangaehu River.

MEMORANDUM SEEKING PROCEDURAL DIRECTIONS

FROM

**FIONA MORTON – CONSULTANT SENIOR CONSENTS PLANNER
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

19 March 2026

1. This memorandum is filed in response to the Applicant's memorandum dated **19 March 2026** seeking vacation of the current timetable and deferral of the hearing. The Applicant advises that further work on its reduced proposal, including updated and additional assessments and an AEE Addendum, cannot be completed until 30 April 2026. The Applicant therefore seeks vacation of the current timetable and deferral of the hearing currently set down for **20 to 23 April 2026**.
2. Council agrees that the current timetable is no longer workable. Council does not oppose the Applicant's request that the current timetable be vacated and that the hearing date of **20 to 23 April 2026** be vacated. However, Council considers it would be premature to fix a replacement timetable at this stage.
3. The Applicant's memorandum signals that the amended application may incorporate a wetland system as part of the wastewater treatment process. On the information presently available, that raises the possibility that one or more additional resource consents may be required. There is also the broader question of whether all consents required for any amended proposal will be before Council, and how any amended proposal is to be assessed against the relevant statutory and planning framework, including the Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika, Te Mana Tupua and Ngā Toka Tupua.
4. Once the amended application package is received, Council officers will need a reasonable opportunity to undertake the usual procedural and legal checks, including:
 - a. whether all required resource consent applications are before Council;
 - b. whether any additional applications require notification assessment;
 - c. whether the amended proposal can properly be treated as a permissible modification to the existing application, or whether it is more appropriately regarded as a new proposal;
 - d. how the amended proposal is to be assessed against the relevant statutory and planning framework, including the One Plan 2026 provisions and the Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika context, including Te Mana Tupua and Ngā Toka Tupua; and
 - e. what procedural pathway should then apply.
5. In those circumstances, Council considers the more appropriate course is that:
 - a. the Applicant file its amended application package and supporting material by **30 April 2026**;

- b. Council officers then be afforded a reasonable opportunity to review that material and advise on the appropriate procedural pathway;
- c. following receipt of that advice, the Panel issue further directions, or convene a case management conference if considered necessary, at which point a new timetable can be fixed.



Fiona Morton

CONSULTANT SENIOR PLANNER