

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
AND of the direct referral of applications for
resource consents for activities associated
with Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua
Highway Project
BETWEEN WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
(ENV-2020-WLG-000014)
Applicant
AND MANAWATŪ-WHANGANUI REGIONAL
COUNCIL
Regulatory Authority

**MINUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
(24 JUNE 2020)**

[1] I refer to my Minute of 13 May 2020 setting out a provisional timetable to progress this application. Following mediation held on 22-23 June 2020 Commissioner Buchanan has advised that a timetable for post mediation action has been agreed between the parties. This timetable is accepted. I direct as follows:

- (i) Within 2 working days of receiving this Minute, parties intending to provide expert witnesses for conferencing on Freshwater Ecology, Terrestrial Ecology and Planning are to provide the Registrar and parties with names and contact details for these witnesses.
- (ii) By 10:00am Friday 26 June 2020, after consulting with the parties as to accuracy, NZTA is to provide the relevant experts with a list of matters referred from mediation for consideration at the conferences directed below.



- (iii) By 1 July 2020 experts attending the ecology conferences are to confer and agree on an agenda for their respective conferences. Commissioner Buchanan is to be provided with a copy.
- (iv) By 10am on Friday 3 July 2020 experts for s 274 parties attending the ecology conferences are to prepare and circulate to the parties and the Court “will say” statements addressing the relevant matters referred to them.
- (v) A conference for terrestrial ecologists is scheduled for 6 July to 8 July 2020, to be held in Auckland.
- (vi) A conference for freshwater ecologists is scheduled for 9 July 2020, also in Auckland.
- (vii) A conference for planning experts is scheduled for 13 July 2020, with an additional day of 16 July 2020 if required, to be held in Wellington.
- (viii) A conference for erosion and sediment control and water quality experts is provisionally scheduled for 3 July 2020 in Wellington. The relevant parties are to advise the Court by 1 July 2020 as to whether this conference is required (and, if so, they are to provide an agenda on that date to Commissioner Buchanan).
- (ix) A conference for appropriate experts on matters raised at mediation by Transpower is provisionally scheduled for 22 and 23 July 2020. The relevant parties are to advise the Court by 14 July 2020 as to whether this conference is required (and, if so, provide an agenda on that date to Commissioner Buchanan).
- (x) Further mediation is to be held in Wellington on 21 July 2020 to consider reports from the expert conferences, including a revised set of consent conditions, and to identify any issues for determination by the Court at hearing.
- (xi) Expert evidence from Horizons Regional Council and s274 parties covering matters remaining at issue is to be filed by 4 August 2020.
- (xii) Evidence in rebuttal from NZTA is to be filed by 14 August 2020.



(xiii) 24 August to 28 August 2020 are confirmed as the dates for hearing. Parties are to advise the Court on completion of all of the above matters as to the anticipated number of days required for hearing.

Note: Formal notices for expert conferences and mediation confirming dates and venues will be issued in due course.

[2] To the extent necessary, these directions replace the provisional timetable previously indicated by the Court.

[3] Leave is reserved for any party to apply for further (or other) directions.



B P Dwyer
Environment Judge

