

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
AT WELLINGTON**

**I MUA I TE KŌTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA
KI TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA**

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
(5 AUGUST 2020)**

- [1] Following today's pre-hearing conference the members of the Court have discussed the issue of a site visit regarding this application and the suggestion (quite properly) advanced by counsel for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency that viewing a digital flyover presentation might adequately inform the Court for hearing purposes.
- [2] Upon consideration, the Court is reluctant to proceed without a physical visit. This is a major project with potentially substantial impacts on ecological values (inter alia). Under the circumstances the Court considers that it is incumbent on it to familiarise itself with the site to the greatest extent practicable.
- [3] The most convenient dates to the Court for a site visit are Thursday 20 August 2020 (most preferred) or Friday 21 August 2020.



[4] Counsel for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is directed to propose a schedule for a site visit accordingly.

[5] The Court has received enquiry from s 274 parties asking to be excused from attending the hearing in this matter. Parties who/which do not wish to attend need not do so however they will obviously not be heard on issues which arise at hearing.



BP Dwyer

Environment Judge

Dated: 5.08.2020