

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT  
AT CHRISTCHURCH**

**I MUA I TE KŌTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA  
KI ŌTAUTAHI**

**ENV-2020-CHC-128**

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Resource Management Act 1991  
of a direct referral of proposed Plan Change 8 to the  
Regional Plan: Water for Otago under s142 2 (b) of  
the Act by the Minister for the Environment.

**AND**

**Otago Regional Council**

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**Memorandum of Counsel for Director-General of Conservation *Tumuaki Ahurei***

**In response to Pre-Hearing Conference Directions**

**– dated 5 August 2021**

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**Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai***

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**May it please the Court:**

1. The Director-General of Conservation *Tumuaki Ahurei* (Director-General) is a section 274 party to the proposed Plan Change 8 (PC8) proceedings, and the Director-General made both a submission and a further submission on PC8.
2. The Court's Directions<sup>1</sup> require any party who made a general submission on PC8 to advise the Court by 6 August 2021 whether they wish to speak to their submission or call evidence at the Court hearing.
3. The Director-General made a general submission on PC8 supporting the overall intent of the plan change as a step towards the long-term sustainable management of surface water in Otago by 'filling the gap' until a full review of the Regional Plan: Water is undertaken. The Director-General is included in the list of parties who made a general submission in Annexure C of the Court's Directions.
4. The Director-General attended mediation on the PC8 rural topics and is one of the parties who agrees with the outcomes of mediation now recorded in the Council memorandum to the Court dated 30 July 2021.<sup>2</sup>
5. I confirm the Director-General remains supportive of PC8 and the mediated agreement. While the Director-General did make a general submission on PC8, he does not seek to call additional evidence or speak to his general submission at the hearing.
6. The Director-General wishes to reserve his position, in accordance with the Court's Directions, to file planning evidence in support of the mediated agreement by 1 October 2021.

Dated 5 August 2021



Pene Williams

Counsel for the Director-General of Conservation *Tumuaki Ahurei*

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<sup>1</sup> Record of Pre-Hearing Conference – Plan Change 8 – Timetable Directions, dated 23 July 2021, at paragraph [17]

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum of Counsel on behalf of the Otago Regional Council, dated 30 July 2021