

**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
(18 JUNE 2020)**

[1] This minute sets out the Court's proposals for the initial mediation to be held at the Environment Court in Wellington on 22/23 June 2020. All parties should have received a notice of mediation.

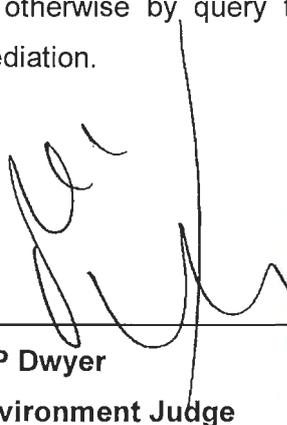
[2] The Court acknowledges receipt of the memorandum of counsel for the Transport Agency (the Agency) dated 17 June 2020, including a statement of issues. This document was prepared by the Agency at the Court's direction to assist the Court in understanding the issues at large in these proceedings and to prepare for the initial mediation. It represents the Agency's views and is not binding on the Court or other parties who/which may express any contrary views or identify/clarify other issues at the initial mediation.

[3] The process for the initial mediation which will be chaired by Environment Commissioner Buchanan will be as follows:



- The initial mediation will commence at mediation suite HR 5.03 and 5.04 at 10 a.m.
- Commissioner Buchanan will give a brief introduction;
- Attendees will identify themselves and the parties they represent;
- Any party wishing to raise legal issues, matters of jurisdiction or matters of process should do so at the outset. These will be resolved by Commissioner Buchanan or referred to the presiding Judge if need be, but otherwise the mediation process will continue;
- The first mediation to commence will be that relating to Mr Shoebridge's submission which is site specific and will require the participation of Mr Shoebridge, the Agency and the Regional Council;
- Thereafter mediation topics will proceed in an order to be determined by Commissioner Buchanan after discussion with the parties;
- Mediations will be undertaken in accordance with the Court's Level 1 Coronavirus Protocol as per the attached link: <https://environmentcourt.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/20-06-10-Environment-C-Covid-19-Directions-re-Level-1.pdf> Counsel are requested to bring this to the attention of their clients.
- In its minute of 13 May the Court had indicated that it might be necessary to restrict the numbers of attendees to one person plus counsel per party. In light of movement to Level 1 such restriction is not required although parties are requested to keep attendees to the lowest reasonably necessary level. An attendance sheet is attached to this minute. Parties are directed to complete and return to the Court by 3.00pm, Friday 19 June 2020.

[4] Any party may seek clarification of this process by request in writing to the Court or otherwise by query to Commissioner Buchanan at commencement of the initial mediation.


B P Dwyer
Environment Judge

