

**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
(27 JULY 2020)**

[1] Commissioner Buchanan advises that there have been substantial agreements reached between NZTA and parties participating in mediation as to the issues “alive” in these proceedings. The Commissioner also advises that a further mediation is scheduled for Monday 3 August where it is hoped that agreements reached to date can be formalised. He suggests that the evidence exchange timetable presently in place might be put on hold to see what (if any) further evidence is required and I make a direction to that effect accordingly.

[2] There will be a prehearing conference at the Environment Court, Wellington on 5 August to:

- Enable parties to advise the Court as to progress which has been made in resolution of outstanding issues and present joint witness statements/mediation agreements;
- Identify what issues remain in dispute between the parties;



- Discuss likely hearing requirements in terms of time and witnesses;
- Discuss site visit requirements/proposals;
- Discuss the Court's timing for reading evidence and identifying the witnesses it wishes to question;
- Make further directions, including as to further evidence (if required).

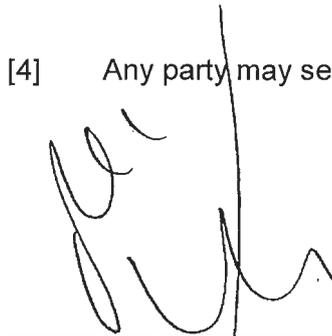
A pre-hearing conference notice is attached. All parties who/which have participated in the mediation/expert witness conference process should attend the prehearing conference.

[3] In light of agreements made between parties and/or reached at expert witness conferencing the Court requires an update of the s 87F report prepared by the Regional Council. The update should address (inter alia):

- The extent to which issues identified in the report have been resolved by agreements reached at mediation and witness conferencing;
- How such agreements relate to or address issues raised by submitters to the resource consent applications who either did not join these proceedings pursuant to s 274 or alternatively filed s 274 notices but did not participate in mediation or expert witness conferencing;
- Advise as to the process for completing a coherent and enforceable set of conditions to the Court for consideration at hearing.

The report to be available no later than 5.00pm 17 August.

[4] Any party may seek further directions by notice in writing at any time.


BP Dwyer
Environment Judge

Dated: 27/07/2020

