

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act) of Notice of Motion under Section 87G requesting the granting of resource consents to WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED for the WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXTENSION OF RUNWAY: CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

(ENV-2016-WLG-000058)

**FIFTH MINUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
(12 JANUARY 2017)**

[1] Parties will have recently received from the Court notice of an Advisors' Conference to be held on 25 January. This minute sets the parameters of that conference and makes directions pertaining to it.

[2] The purpose of the conference is to give general assistance to those parties to these proceedings who are acting without the benefit of legal representation. For that purpose two experienced resource management practitioners, Mr M Conway (lawyer) and Mr D McMahon (planner), have been appointed by the Court to manage the conference. Additionally, Court staff will be available to assist where they are able.

[3] Although the conference is directed at assisting unrepresented parties any party to the proceedings may attend and observe.

[4] The function to be undertaken by Messrs Conway and McMahon together with Court staff is to assist parties unfamiliar with Environment Court processes with information as to how the Court hearing process will work and how unrepresented parties can participate in it. It is not the function of these Court appointed advisors to comment or advise on the merits of the WIAL application or any party's submission on it nor are they able to make directions which are binding on the Court or parties in any way. If any party attending requires advice as to specific matters which might affect their legal position they should refer those matters to their own solicitor. This meeting is not an opportunity for unrepresented parties to present or speak to their submission. That opportunity will be afforded at the substantive hearing, a date for which is yet to be set.



[5] If Messrs Conway and McMahon consider that any issues emerge from the conference which require directions from the Court they may submit a memorandum accordingly which will be posted on the Court's website and circulated to parties.

[6] The conference will be conducted on a without prejudice basis so that no statements made by parties during the conference will be binding on them or may be referred to later in these proceedings. To that end I formally direct that no recording of the conference may be made by any party or other person, nor will the Court record the conference. In the event that media representatives attend the conference, their reporting may be of a general nature only and must not identify specific questions raised by parties or information given to those parties.

[7] Memoranda regarding various matters of process have been filed in these proceedings by Guardians of the Bay Incorporated (dated 25 November 2016) and WIAL (dated 20 December 2016). Copies of these are available on the Court's website and I suggest that persons attending the Advisors' Conference consider those documents as they may raise issues which can be addressed at the conference.

[8] Finally, I confirm earlier advice that the Court will hold a judicial conference on 9 February 2017 to make formal directions to advance these proceedings to hearing. To enable identification of a venue for the conference, parties are directed to indicate in writing to the Court by Friday 20 January 2017 if they wish to appear and speak at the judicial conference. The Court is currently investigating the possibility of making a live feed of the judicial conference available through the Court's website so that parties may observe the proceedings without actually attending. A notice of hearing and Court minute regarding that conference will issue in due course.




B P Dwyer
Environment Judge