

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT  
AT CHRISTCHURCH**

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

IN THE MATTER	of the Resource Management Act 1991
AND	of an application for declarations under s 310 of the Act
BETWEEN	ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE SOCIETY INCORPORATED
	(ENV-2020-CHC-099)
	Applicant
AND	NEW ZEALAND ALUMINIUM SMELTERS LIMITED
	Respondent

---

**JUDGE'S MINUTE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE SOCIETY'S  
PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING OUEVA PRE-MIX REMOVAL AT MATAURA**

**(9 September 2020)**

---

[1] I am taking the unusual step of issuing this minute after two days of judicial settlement conference because of the high level of public interest, and because I have directed the parties to confine their discussions to the conference parties and not beyond its confidential confines.

[2] This Minute is being issued with their consent.

[3] Progress has been made through robust discussions yesterday and today.

[4] Constructive practical solutions are on the table and are being actively worked on by the major parties.



[5] The parties all accept the urgency and seriousness of the situation at Maitua.

[6] I have directed a resumption of the settlement conference for just over two weeks' time on Monday 28 September, with a view to finalising solutions. I have directed steps to be taken by parties meantime, and a timetable.

[7] The current contractual arrangements for removal of ouvea pre-mix from the Maitua premises are operating ahead of the originally-anticipated timetable, but the parties are working on developing considerably faster arrangements if at all possible.

[8] I have directed the parties not to make further comment in the media meantime so as not to prejudice the ongoing work and co-operation.

[9] There will be no further comment from the Court at this stage of the process.

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink on the left, which appears to read 'L J Newhook'. To the right of the signature is a circular official seal. The seal features a central coat of arms with a crown on top, flanked by two figures. The text around the perimeter of the seal reads 'THE SEAL OF THE ENVIRONMENT COURT NEW ZEALAND'.

---

**L J Newhook**

**Environment Judge**

Issued: 9 September 2020