

**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 a notice of motion under section 149T(2)
to decide proposed Plan Change 7 to the
Regional Plan: Water for Otago (referred to
the Environment Court by the Minister for the
Environment under section 142(2)(b) of the
Act)
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL
(ENV-2020-CHC-127)
Applicant

Before: Environment Judge J E Borthwick
Held: in Christchurch on 11 February 2021 at 11 am
In Attendance: M Mehlhopt for the applicant
J Winchester and S Lennon for Ngā Rūnanga

**RECORD OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
PLAN CHANGE 7**

Witnesses in support of Cultural Evidence

(11 February 2021)

Introduction

[1] Kāi Tahu ki Otago, Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have filed a joint memorandum requesting a direction to enable up to two further witnesses to be called in support of Mr D Whaanga.

[2] Mr Whaanga is giving evidence on behalf of three rūnanga/rūnaka, known collectively in these proceedings as “Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku”. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku together with other rūnanga/rūnaka have interest in waterbodies located within Otago.



[3] Counsel confirmed during the telephone conference the new witnesses are people who are regarded as kaumātua. One witness is to be Mr Stewart Bull; the decision whether to call a second witness has yet to be made.

[4] Given that the evidence is to be called in support of Mr Whaanga and is not evidence going to the resolution of the parties' interests in the plan change proceedings,¹ I will allow the witnesses to be called.

[5] The new witnesses will not file briefs of evidence. The giving of oral evidence in support of another is in accordance with tikanga. The scope of the evidence is not such that I would anticipate there will be cross-examination. If parties wish to cross-examine the new witnesses, I will address this during the hearing.

Hearing Administrators

[6] The Hearing Administrators are to allow 30 minutes per witness in the Hearing Schedule. This time requirement may be refined following discussion with the parties, but for the moment includes oral evidence and any questions that may arise in relation to the same.

Jane S



J E Borthwick
Environment Judge

Issued: 11 February 2021

¹ I.e. the witnesses are not to propose amendments to the plan change provisions.