

Minute from the Independent Hearings Panel Re:

'Where to from here' on the Economic and Science Modelling Information Forum for Proposed Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipa River Catchments

1. At the request of the Hearing Panel the "Information Forum" was held on 21 and 22 November 2018. The Hearing Panel wishes to thank all of those parties who attended and participated.
2. The independent facilitators of that Forum have provided a written memorandum to the Hearing Panel, which is attached.
3. That memorandum at paragraphs 5 to 8, states:

Having reflected on the 2-day Forum, the topics identified by the parties, the time available prior to the scheduled commencement of the hearing in March 2019, the expected release date for the s42A report, and the dates for evidence exchange, we bring the following to the Hearing Panel's attention for consideration.

It seems to us that the underlying issues discussed at the Forum are of such fundamental significance that it is unlikely in the available time (and at this time of year) that useful progress would be made. We are also mindful that the cost of experts' time for conferencing is not inconsiderable.

As the issues (in this area) are now more clearly identified we have formed the view that it would be more efficient for the Hearing Panel to convene the hearing on the preliminary matters before determining whether and to what extent further detailed conferencing is warranted.

We recommend accordingly. (underling is our emphasis)

4. The Hearing Panel has considered the memorandum (and the list of issues set out in the table), and has determined not to continue further with the Forum process - and that we proceed to hearing these matters. The Hearing Panel has therefore considered how the timetable for the pre-hearing exchange of evidence for the first tranche of hearings should be amended consequent on this change in process.
5. The following is proposed¹:
 - The hearings will commence on 11 March 2019².

¹ Note - this information is provided to the Forum participants as an indication of the Hearing Panel's thinking at this time around mid December 2018.

² The Waikato Regional Council has indicated it will require the first 2 days to present to the Hearing Panel.

- The first tranche of hearings will cover:

Part A – Introduction and context of the plan change

Part B – Outcomes

B1 Overall direction and whole plan submissions

B2 Values and uses

B3 Science and Economics

B4 Objectives

B5 FMUs, sub-catchments, targets and limits, priorities

- The Council's section 42A report on the first tranche of hearing topics will be available on the Council's website not later than 14 January 2019. It will cover the hearing topics set out above.
 - Evidence on these topics will be due with the Council's Independent Coordinator, Mr Steve Rice at the addresses set out in the "Hearing Procedures and Directions" Document dated 5 November 2018 by 15 February 2018.
 - Any rebuttal evidence will be due on 22 February 2019.
6. A fuller hearing schedule will be made available around mid December 2018. However, to provide some certainty to parties now, it is likely that the first tranche of hearings (as indicated above) will run from 11 March through to late April/early May 2019. The Council's Independent Coordinator will be making contact with parties early in the new year to begin scheduling submitters into hearing times.



Greg Hill

Chair of the Hearing Panel

29 November 2018