

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND waivers and directions under section 281 of
 the Act

 MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

 Consent Authority

MINUTE (26 March 2020)

Introduction

[1] Following the Minute dated 26 February 2020, the court is aware that the period for filing any appeals on the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan ('PMEP') is currently running.

[2] In light of the Government's announcement that New Zealand has now been placed at COVID-19 Alert Level 4, and uncertainty over how long such measures will last, the court will extend the period for lodging appeals to ensure parties are not put under any undue pressure. That is clearly consistent with the principles set out in ss269 and 281.

Directions

[3] Accordingly, under s281 of the RMA, I direct that the period to lodge any appeals on the PMEP with the Environment Court is further extended by 15 working days. All appeals are to be lodged by **Friday 8 May 2020**.

[4] The Christchurch Environment Court is well set up to work remotely from home so will continue to process and accept any and all filing as normal. The only difference is that no hard copies are currently required to be filed – all filing must be made electronically to my hearing manager (Christine.McKee@justice.govt.nz) and filing fees paid via bank transfer (instructions set out on our website).



[5] On proceedings generally, in view of current circumstances concerning COVID-19 Alert Level 4, parties should continue to refer to the Environment Court's website. Counsel should note that the court is aware of the general need to grant waivers of statutory time periods but is not always aware of the proceedings that may be coming in. As such, parties are invited to apply for waivers and extensions where needed via email to Ms McKee.

[6] Leave is reserved for any party to apply for further (or other) directions.



J J M Hassan
Environment Judge

Issued: 26 March 2020

