

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Minute of the Hearing Panel

Minute 10

Minute to: Peter Hamill, Team Leader - Land and Water, for Marlborough District Council, and Nelson Forests Limited

1. In submissions heard on Tuesday 13 March, Nelson Forests Limited challenged the consultation process and methodology of the wetland identification of ten areas within forests owned or managed by it.
2. Evidence from Heather Arnold, a planner with Nelson Management Limited, outlined a willingness to co-operate in proper identification of significant wetlands deserving of protection under the Resource Management Act 1991 and described how that process had worked well through a consultative process in respect of two potential wetlands of interest.
3. At paragraphs 17 & 18 of her evidence, and orally in answer to Panel questions, Ms Arnold confirmed the submitter is willing to undertake a verification process as to the exact areas involved and their significance or otherwise, by assisting the s.42A report writer, Mr Hamill, to visit the locations involved.
4. As those may involve accessing land which are not in the ownership of the submitter but may be lands owned by others, the s.42A report writer will need to ensure that, in addition to the helpful formal offer to arrange access for inspection visits from the submitter, that landowner approval is also confirmed, particularly as the evidence suggested iwi ownership may be involved. That is especially important as iwi presentations to the Panel have emphasised the obligation of full consultation with iwi on Proposed MEP processes involving their interests.
5. The submitter is requested to provide a list to the Panel, through Mr Hamill as the s.42A reporter, of the landowners for each of the ten sites at issue which are not in the ownership of Nelson Forests Limited.
6. Mr. Hamill is requested by the Panel to ensure he has contacted those owners and obtained prior approval to site inspections from them. (In practical terms it may well prove that Ms Arnold is able to assist in gaining those prior approvals and if so the Panel would welcome that assistance.)

7. The Panel requests that the outcome of the site verification process be documented by Mr Hamill and be provided to the Panel as soon as practicable.

Dated 14 March 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Hook', with a small dot at the end.

Councillor Trevor Hook

Chair of the MEP Hearing Panel