

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Minute of the Hearing Panel

Minute 31

1. In the course of its hearings of submissions in respect of the Flood Hazard overlay maps and associated rules in the Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP), the Hearing Panel has received submissions seeking clarity as to whether or not in higher risk flood hazard areas vineyard structures are a permitted activity.
2. During the hearing, the uncertainty of the status of viticultural support structures was raised in the context of Standard 3.2.1.15, which states that a building or structure that has the potential to divert water must not be within a Level 2 Flood Hazard Area.
3. As the Marlborough District Council's (Council) senior rivers engineer with considerable experience in Marlborough, and the person currently charged with the management of the rivers and floodways in Marlborough, the Hearing Panel believes you may be able from personal experience and observation to inform it as to a number of relevant factual matters which have arisen during the hearings, or to access relevant Council records containing such information.
4. The factual issues upon which the Hearing Panel wishes to be better informed include:
 - (i) Whether there have been instances you have observed, or which are recorded in Council's records, of vineyard structures becoming an added hazard through being torn loose by floodwaters and constituting a serious obstacle to floodway flows in Marlborough?
 - (ii) If so then:
 - (a) Can you provide brief details of when that has occurred, how often, in what size flood events, and at what locations?
 - (b) What damage was caused, or hazard risk raised, by any such events to stopbanks, bridges, culverts or other floodway structures?
 - (c) The magnitude of the task of removal of any such obstacle?

- (d) Your own view and description of the potential hazard posed by such a potential event.
- (iii) Did the rivers section of Council during the preparation of the MEP specifically seek that the MEP rules prevented grape structures in any particular areas of the region, and if so in what floodway areas?
- (iv) If it did not seek such specific rules, was that because the potential risk arising from this activity was not perceived as realistically being great enough to warrant specific rules?
5. If possible the Hearing Panel would appreciate that information by Friday, 29 June, 2018 in time for it to be considered when the hearings resume on 2 July.

Dated 15 June 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Hook', followed by a period.

Councillor Trevor Hook
Chair of the MEP Hearing Panel