

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Minute of the Hearing Panel

Minute 33

1. On Monday 9 July, 2018 the Hearing Panel (the Panel) heard submissions and evidence from Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) seeking that a standard be imposed in relevant provisions of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan relating to new habitable buildings requiring 'compliance' with New Zealand Fire Service Firefighting Water Supplies Code of Practice SNZ PAS 4509 (the Code).
2. The Panel was not provided with a copy of the Code and has subsequently found that the Code does not appear to be freely available to the public online, although it appears to be available for purchase.
3. As part of its deliberations on what 'compliance' would mean for affected members of the public proposing to build a habitable building, the Panel has concluded it has insufficient information to be able to make a properly informed decision incorporating the Code as it stands.
4. In an oral answer to a Panel member's questions as to internal firefighting sprinkler systems, Mr Rob Dalton stated that 'practical' compliance with the Code was accepted if a sprinkler system was installed by having it linked to a potable water supply tank with 23,000 litres capacity rather than requiring the separate dedicated 7,500 litres capacity solely for the sprinkler system.
5. The Panel understands various tanks are available generally in a range of 20,000 up to 25,000 litres capacity.
6. The Hearing Panel has decided it needs further information from the submitter FENZ, as follows:
 - (i) What does 'compliance' with the Code exactly require in terms of the various elements and equipment required and the various options?
 - (ii) FENZ needs to provide a clear written expression of those requirements in terms able to be included as concise workable Standards in the PMEP for new habitable buildings.
 - (iii) Would practical compliance be accepted at any size above 20,000 litres provided an internal firefighting sprinkler system was installed? (i.e. the

Panel wishes to be clear that there is no practical difference between 20,000 and 23,000 litre tanks for practical compliance purposes?

- (iv) Please provide a copy of the Code to the Council for it to be able to verify the answer to (i) and (ii) above.
 - (v) Confirm whether the Code is available free of charge to the public, or if not, what the cost is of the Code to a member of the public and whether the copy provided is in hard form or electronic searchable form?
 - (vi) What arrangements does FENZ have in place to ensure that throughout the life of the Plan copies of the Code will always be readily available to members of the public? Please also state whether that availability will be by hard copy, or by an online word or phrase searchable version and whether it will be free of charge or only available to purchase?
 - (vii) How often is the Code reviewed, by which body, and what public participation is involved in that review process?
7. The Hearing Panel requests that information be provided by Friday, 24 August, 2018 in time for it to be considered when the hearings resume on 3 September, 2018.

Dated 11 July 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