

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Minute of the Hearing Panel

Minute 41

To: Peter Hamill, Section 42A Report Writer – Water Quality

1. In the course of its deliberations on two technical aspects of the recommendations in the Section 42A Report, the Hearing Panel seeks your further guidance. They relate to:
 - i. The possible outcome in Appendix 5 as to Waikawa Stream,
 - ii. The choice of a comparative or absolute standard for turbidity changes.

Waikawa Stream issue

2. On this matter, Te Atiawa o Te Waka-a-Maui sought inclusion of Waikawa Stream in Appendix 5 as to its cultural values.
3. The report at paragraph 300, page 46, recommended that an amendment be made to Appendix 5 to meet that request by adding into WRU57 (Small Sounds Streams) in Schedule 1 the following:

“AE, FS, C (Waikawa Stream)”
4. In deciding whether to grant the relief sought, the Panel is considering whether a better outcome may be to define the Waikawa Stream catchment as a separate WRU on the Water Resource Unit Map in Volume 4. Waikawa Stream would then be able to have separate values identified for it rather than being combined with other Small Sounds Streams but having to have a particular different value ascribed to it.
5. The guidance the Panel seeks then is that, if it decided to adopt that course, what other values should be identified for the Waikawa Stream in addition to the ‘C’ for Cultural values?

Turbidity change issue

6. In the Section 42A Report on Water Quality, at paragraph 311, a recommendation is made to accept the Federated Farmers' submission to amend the *Interpretation of Standard/Parameter* column of Schedule 2 for the standard *Colour or visual clarity* to read that the wording is changed from:

Turbidity must be no greater than 1.5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units

to instead read:

Turbidity must not change more than 1.5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units

7. The Hearing Panel is concerned that it reads the former to be an absolute standard of measurement, whereas the latter appears to be only a measure of a comparative degree of change, which removes the protection of any degree of absolute standard as to turbidity levels.
8. Can you please reconsider that recommendation and advise your conclusions against the background purpose which the Hearing Panel understands underlies this provision of ensuring that turbidity levels are required to be set to protect water quality.

Dated 12 November 2018

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

Councillor Trevor Hook

Chair of the MEP Hearing Panel