

## Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

### Minute of the Hearing Panel

#### Minute 48

To: Val Wadsworth, Section 42A Report Writer – Hydrologist for Marlborough District

And: Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game, Submitter

1. At the hearing on 18 February, 2019 the hydrologist Marianne Watson was called by Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game (Fish and Game) as an expert witness. At paragraph 35 of her principal pre-circulated brief of evidence she stated as follows:

*“35. At several places in the work completed, current use was shown to be about 40% of available allocations. Reliability of allocation under natural flows and current use i.e. using ‘as recorded’ flows, are also presented in the outputs to give the full utilisation scenarios some context.”*

2. That percentage of 40% of actual ‘*current use*’ of ‘*available allocations*’ came under question at the hearing on 19 February, 2019 when another submitter, Save the Wairau River Incorporated (Mr. Cudby), quoted that figure. It was asserted it raised serious concerns at the possibilities of significant increased adverse effects if the total annual allocation was to be subsequently sought to be utilised in full.
3. That in turn led to enquiry by the Panel of Mr Wadsworth as to whether that figure of 40 % utilisation of allocations currently was accepted by the s.42 report writers as being accurate. Mr. Wadsworth expressed some surprise at the level of that figure but was uncertain as the basis on which it was calculated, and whether it related to all or only some classes.
4. Unfortunately, paragraph 35 of Ms. Watson’s brief did not provide specific references to paragraph numbers or even pages of her supporting documents. Rather the paragraph commenced by saying broadly “*At several places in the work completed...*” without providing those references.
5. The Panel trusts that this should be a figure capable of agreement between the two hydrological experts as it would appear to require straight-forward statistical calculations which it imagines should be reasonably readily available. (The detailed references to her ‘*several places in the work completed*’ which need to be

provided by Ms. Watson to the Panel through Mr Wadsworth will hopefully be able to assist.)

6. The Panel formally requests of Mr Wadsworth that he urgently follows up with Marianne Watson as to how that figure was calculated, and that the following responses be provided in writing as part of the s.42A report writers' responses to the evidence on Tuesday 26 February:
  - (i) A summary of how Ms. Watson calculated that figure, coupled with the detailed references to the several places in the work completed.
  - (ii) Whether agreement can be reached between the two experts Mr. Wadsworth and Ms Watson as to the percentage of total allocated water on an annual basis which was actually utilised in the last year, and if so, the agreed figures.
  - (iii) If agreement is not able to be reached, the figures of actual utilisation of total annual allocations asserted by each of Ms. Watson and Mr Wadsworth for the last year, and reasons as to why their particular calculations should be preferred.

Dated 20 February 2019

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