

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Minute of the Hearing Panel

Minute 51

1. The Panel has come to the end of the process of hearing evidence on the 22 topics it set out in its initial procedural minutes for the MEP hearing process (Minutes 1 and 2).
2. This has involved considering over 17,000 submission points either in support of or in opposition to the notified provisions of the MEP.
3. This has obviously been a huge task and the Panel thanks the various Section 42A report writers and the submitters that have provided evidence for the constructive approach taken during the course of the hearing.
4. Having come to this point, Council staff have recently informed us that there are a small number of submission points and associated further submission points for which the submitters may not have been provided the opportunity to be heard. This has occurred for one of two reasons:
 1. The submission points have been reallocated to topics that had already been heard;
 2. The submission points were evaluated in the relevant Section 42A report, but a hearing notice referencing the relevant point was not subsequently sent out.
5. What is at the forefront of the Panel's collective thoughts at this time is the principle of natural justice. It is essential that the relevant submitters are provided the opportunity to be heard on these submission points. This will also provide the Panel with full information on which to base its decision making.
6. This minute records that the Panel has instructed Council staff to set aside hearing dates to allow the affected submitters to be heard. Those dates are likely to be 29 and 30 April 2019.
7. A single Section 42A Report will be prepared for this hearing and will be distributed at least four weeks prior to the hearing. Hearing notices will be issued to affected submitters and further submitters in the same manner and timeframes as set out in our initial procedures.

8. A list of the submission points which will form part of the Section 42A Report can be viewed under the 'Final Report – Submission Points' heading, here: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/hearings-on-the-proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/important-documents>
9. If you believe that you have a submission point(s) or further submission point(s) that have yet to be heard, which are not included in the identified list, then you can make a request to the Panel to be heard. Any such request should be made in writing and identify not only the submission point numbers but also the reason you believe that you have not been heard. Requests are to be lodged by 25 March 2019.
10. If you were not invited on a particular point but still addressed it at the hearing then no further opportunity to present will be provided.

Please send requests to:

Email: mep@marlborough.govt.nz

Address: Marlborough District Council
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240
New Zealand
Attn: Louise Walker

Dated 11 March 2019



Councillor Trevor Hook

Chair of the MEP Hearing Panel