

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Minute of the Hearing Panel

Minute 3Y

On 12 December 2017, the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan Hearing Panel (the Panel) received a request from the Marine Farming Association Incorporated (MFA) and Aquaculture New Zealand Limited (AQNZ) for an increase to their appearance time and for an expert witness to be heard out of sequence.

In a memorandum from counsel for MFA and AQNZ, a request was made for two hours to present their submissions at the hearing for Topic 6: Indigenous Biodiversity and two hours at the hearing for Topic 5: Natural Character and Landscape. Further sought was the ability for their expert witness, Dr Alison MacDiarmid, to address the Panel on matters of indigenous biodiversity and climate change at one appearance.

In its reasoning for the request, counsel for MFA and AQNZ stated that the organisations had made a number of submission points on both topics 5 and 6 and extra time would be needed to detail these submissions on behalf of the aquaculture industry.

In regards to Dr Alison MacDiarmid's appearance, counsel for MFA and AQNZ noted that the matters to which Dr MacDiarmid would refer to were similar in nature and could be dealt with at one time rather than the inconvenience of two appearances in close succession.

The Panel agreed more time would be required for MFA and AQNZ to present on both topics 5 and topic 6 but in both instances felt that the requested two hour time slot was excessive given the number of experts identified in their request. The Panel reiterates their earlier minutes that all evidence is taken as read. Notwithstanding this procedure, it is accepted that topics 5 and 6 are of significance given they address Section 6 matters. Therefore the Panel has agreed to provide 20 minutes for each expert and for legal submissions. In summary, for topic 6, 90 minutes has been provided; and for topic 5, 60 minutes has been provided.

The Panel considered the request for Dr MacDiarmid to speak to her evidence on climate change during her appearance at the hearing for indigenous biodiversity a reasonable one. Additional time has also been allocated for Dr MacDiarmid as part this request.

Dated 14 December 2017

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