

Minute from the Hearing Panel – regarding:

Waikato Regional Council (as submitter) seeking to file its expert planning evidence late (by the 15 July 2019)

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) - as submitter - has sought to file its expert planning evidence late (no later than the 15 July 2019). This request was received on the 4 June 2019, with the reason being the unavailability of its planning witness Mr Mayhew. Mr Mayhew will be overseas from the 22 June 2019 till 9 July 2019.

The Hearing Panel (Panel) understands the concerns of WRC. However, for the reasons set out below, the Panel does not agree to the full extent of the extension requested.

In our Minute of 30 May 2019, relating to the Block 3 Hearings, the Panel directed that:

- (a) The Council's section 42A report on these hearings topics will be available on the Council's website not later than 14 June 2019. It will only cover the Block 3 hearing topics.
- (b) Evidence on these topics is due with the Council's Hearing Coordinator not later than 5 July 2019.
- (c) Any rebuttal evidence is due with the Council's Hearing Coordinator not later than 19 July 2019.

The Panel has given a significant notice period to enable parties to prepare their evidence and any rebuttal. A fair and efficient hearings process is predicated on all parties having time to prepare evidence, to read the evidence of other parties and prepare any rebuttal (if necessary); and for the Panel to have read all of the evidence prior to the hearings commencing.

WRC seeks a substantial time extension to file its planning evidence; leaving little time for any rebuttal to be prepared. To grant the extension sought would require extending the rebuttal period. The Panel is reluctant to do this given the amount of time it has already given for the filing of evidence.

The Panel notes that Mr Mayhew is not overseas until the 22 June 2019 and back on the 9 July 2019. Accordingly, there is time between now and then to prepare evidence (noting the section 42A report will be available no later than the 14 June 2019).

The Panel grants an extension sought until the **12 July 2019**. This will enable 5 days for any rebuttal evidence to be filed¹. On this basis the Panel would not need to extend the date by which rebuttal evidence must be filed.



¹ The Panel's previous Directions have provided 5 days for rebuttal, but 'extended' that time to 10 days for Block 3 in recognition that some parties would still be in hearings for Block 2.

Greg Hill

Chairman of the Hearing Panel.

5 June 2019