

**Minute from the Independent Hearings Panel – regarding:
Waikato Regional Council Proposed Plan Change 1 – Waikato and
Waipā River Catchments**

**CNI Iwi Land Management Ltd (CNI) seeking to file their expert planning evidence
late (by the 28 February 2019)**

CNI has sought to file its evidence late (by the 28 February 2019). This request was received on the 26 January 2019, with the reasons set out below.

Background

WRC are no doubt aware that the N leach allocation debate is working its way through the Environment Court in the catchment immediately adjacent to the Waikato – Lake Rotorua Plan Change 10.

The EC hearing commences 4 March. Rebuttal is due to Court on 3 Feb.

For CNI Iwi Holdings Ltd, who are one of the two appellants on this case, this timetable is putting huge pressure on resources, making it very difficult to support the PPC10 appeal and the Waikato Plan Change One Council 1st hearing.

The CNIHL landholding in Lake Rotorua is 3200Ha, or 8% of the catchment.

In the Waikato is 34,000Ha. I.e. In both cases the outcomes of these cases are highly significant to CNI's ability to appropriately use the land returned to them in Treaty Settlement. They have interests greater than the public at large.

Compounding the timing issues, the first CNIHL Board meeting after the Christmas break is not until late February. It is normal practice in CNIHL – particularly for such an important issue – to get full Board mandate for the Hearing evidence.

We do not ask this lightly, being aware that running the hearing for PPC1 could easily be described as a behemoth. However this almost simultaneous timing of these hearing processes only affects a very small number of submitters, so making an exception for this case would not open the floodgates.

Request

Please would you allow CNIHL to have an extension until 28 February 2019 to submit its expert planning evidence for Tranche 1 of the PPC1 Hearing.

The Hearing Panel agrees to this request for the reasons set out above. The Hearing Panel considers that the submitter's circumstances are highly unusual and likely to be limited to a very small number of submitters.

The Hearing Panel notes that the filing date of the expert evidence is after the lodgement period for any rebuttal evidence to all evidence –in-chief. In light of this, any party wishing to lodge rebuttal evidence to CNI's evidence will have 5 working days to do so from the receipt of CNI's evidence.

Given the extension of time in which to lodge its evidence, the hearing of CNI's evidence will be scheduled 'later' in Block 1. This is to enable all parties, including the Hearing Panel, to have read the evidence well before the hearing. Mr Rice, the Council's Independent Hearings Coordinator, will organise with CNI an appropriate hearing time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hill', followed by a period.

Greg Hill

Chairman of the Hearing Panel. 29

January 2019