

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER discharge and land use resource consents for the operation and maintenance of the Wairoa wastewater treatment plant and sewer pump station overflows

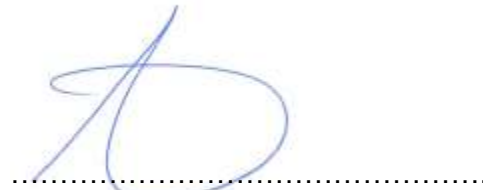
BY **Wairoa District Council**
Applicant

FIFTH MINUTE OF HEARINGS PANEL

1. This minute is issued further to receipt of the outputs of expert conferencing on conditions of consent, on 7 May 2021.
2. While it appears that some progress has been made on the conferencing topics, there are a number of aspects of the document received which the Commissioners are struggling to understand in terms of precisely what changes to conditions are proposed, which parties' experts agree to the proposed wording changes (and which experts do not), and whether the proposed changes in fact address the issues for conferencing raised in the Panel's first minute.
3. For this reason, the Panel have conferred and now direct further as follows:
 - (a) That the Regional Council (Manager – Consents) provide the Panel with a single document containing version 24 of the consent conditions as now proposed.
 - (b) That this document be stripped of all highlighting/shading but instead comprise three columns, namely:
 - i. In the first column the proposed wording either as agreed by all experts, or as preferred by the Regional Council experts;
 - ii. In a second column, any alternative wording proposed by counterpart experts;
 - iii. In a third column a comment from the relevant counterpart expert(s) identifying why their alternative wording is preferred.
4. Once the Panel has had a chance to review that document, we may need to convene a conference of the experts concerned at which we would ask questions over any remaining areas of uncertainty to us, in order that we can make a determination on issues of condition wording that remain in dispute.

5. We should record that this would not represent a reopening of the hearing, nor comprise an opportunity for any party or expert to give evidence. It would simply be for the purpose of clarification, and whereby the experts in question would only “speak when spoken to”.
6. We direct that the version 24 document meeting the requirements set out above be received by 5.00 pm Friday 25 June 2021.

Dated: 10 June 2021



Martin Williams
Chair Hearings Panel