

Environment Court of New Zealand

Continuing trial of procedure for remote Court-assisted mediation for Wellington Regional Council Proposed Natural Resources Plan appeals

Attached is a list of mediations, times and parties for identified topics and sub-topics scheduled for mediation sessions proposed for weeks 25 May to 12 June 2020 as part of a continuing trial of remote Court-assisted mediation methods. I thank everyone involved for their co-operation and willingness to participate in the trial mediation, recognising that some parties expressed their wish to see the appeal points involved and take instructions.

Attached are the Environment Court's directions under which these mediations are to occur. Please study these carefully as the procedures have been updated to reflect experience with and feedback on the mediations conducted to date. Note particularly the requirement to pre-circulate any proposal, whether in concept or redrafted provisions, a party wishes to table at the mediation by 9 am one day ahead of the mediation at the latest and preferably earlier. Also note the desirability of parties indicating in writing ahead of the mediation any response to the Regional Council's summary statement that will assist with improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the mediation process.

There are further Regional Council's summary statements to come, although there are some that have already been pre-circulated.

The Regional Council will separately be contacting the parties on arrangements for the use of technology, whether participants are joining the Microsoft TEAMS platform provided and delivered by the Regional Council by audio or video link. That includes the opportunity for participants to try out the technology before mediation.

It would be appreciated if parties could provide the names of those attending, their position, email address and phone number for each session and whether they will be joining the mediation session by phone or video link by **Wednesday 20 May 2020**. That will greatly assist in the organisation of the mediation sessions.

If parties have any difficulty with the proposed arrangements please advise Jennifer Gerritsen at the Environment Court (and copy parties in) as quickly as possible.

Thank you

Environment Commissioner Kathryn Edmonds