

## WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

### PROPOSED CHANGE 1 TO THE WELLINGTON REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

#### Minute 20

#### TIMEFRAME EXTENSION REQUESTS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ISSUE - HEARING STREAM 6 – INDIGENOUS ECOSYSTEMS

1. New Year's greetings to everyone. We hope everyone has had a relaxing break.

#### **HS 6 – Extension request for hearing presentation**

2. We have received one request for additional presentation time for Hearing Stream 6 – Indigenous Ecosystems (HS6). Meridian Energy Limited (S100) has requested a 15 minute speaking slot to allow more time to cover the material they wish to raise. The Hearing Advisors have advised us that this extension request can be comfortably accommodated within the hearing schedule and we grant the request.

#### **Filing extension request**

3. Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Inc (S165) have requested a filing extension for their legal submissions for HS6. They have advised the submissions will be available on Monday 5 February.
4. We grant this request as we consider it will not have a material impact on the Council being able to file its rebuttal evidence by the due date of 13 February 2024.

#### **Potential conflict of interest**

5. Commissioner Kara-France has declared on the conflict of interest register her Ministerial appointment to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). The register notes there may be a perceived conflict given the NZCA's role in conservation advocacy. This may be an issue in particular for HS6 therefore we are specifically drawing the matter to submitters' attention in this Minute.
6. NZCA is a national statutory body that provides strategic policy advice to DOC and the Minister of Conservation and advocates on conservation issues of national importance. More information about NZCA's functions is here: [New Zealand Conservation Authority - NZCA: Statutory and advisory bodies \(doc.govt.nz\)](#).
7. If any submitter has concerns with Commissioner Kara-France sitting on the panel/s hearing and deliberating on HS6, please contact the Hearings Advisors by 5pm on 12 February 2024.

The Chair will consider any concerns raised and the mitigation / management options available.

Dated: 2 February 2024



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D Nightingale  
Chair  
Part 1, Schedule 1 Panel  
Freshwater Hearings Panel