

Minute from the Hearing Panel – regarding:

Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc (Federated Farmers) seeking to file their expert evidence late (no later than the 14 May 2019).

Federated Farmers has sought to file its expert evidence late (no later than the 14 May 2019) with any rebuttal evidence on the Federated Farmers evidence being circulated one week later on 21 May 2019.

This request was received on the April 2019, with the reason being the unavailability of its planning witness Mr Eccles. Mr Eccles will be abroad from the 12 April to the 6 May 2019.

The Hearing Panel (Panel) understands the concerns of Federated Farmers and wishes to be as accommodating as possible. However, for the reasons set out below, the Panel only partially agrees to this request for the late filing of expert evidence.

It is agreed that the expert planning evidence may be filed no later than the 12 May 2019. Any party wishing to lodge rebuttal evidence to the planning evidence will have until the 17 May 2019.

Any other expert evidence to be filed by Federated Farmers is to be filed in accordance with the Panel's Minute dated 18 March 2019 in relation to the Block 2 hearings (i.e. on time).

It is understood Federated Farmers will be appearing on the 18 June 2019. It is accepted that the Panel, Council and other submitters would have had time to read the evidence prior to Federated Farmers appearing. However, as the Block 2 hearings commence on the 20 May 2019, it would be unsatisfactory for the Council and submitters to be preparing for and presenting their cases ahead of having had an opportunity to review all of the rebuttal evidence.

It is the Panel's view that having an expert witness abroad is not a sufficient reason for the balance of the Federated Farmers evidence to be late or for the expert planning evidence (any any rebuttal) to be filed as late as requested by Federated Farmers.



Greg Hill

Chairman of the Hearing Panel.

10 April 2019