

Minute from the Independent Hearings Panel Re:

Waikato Regional Council Proposed Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipā River Catchments –

Mediation and/or expert conferencing for:

- *Farm Environment Plans, and*
- *Sub-catchment Planning (alternative approaches).*

On the 13 December 2018, the Hearing Panel (Panel) issued a minute titled – **Hearing Schedule**.

In that Minute section 7 stated:

The topics for which mediation and/or expert conferencing will occur are:

- *Commercial Vegetable Production,*
- *Farm Environment Plans, and*
- *Sub-catchment Planning (alternative approaches).*

The hearings schedule issued set out dates for “Forums” to address the three topics listed above. Expert conferencing has occurred in relation to Commercial Vegetable Production.

It is the Panel’s view that it is premature to hold mediation and/or expert conferencing for Farm Environment Plans and Sub-catchment Planning as has been scheduled. The Panel considers that that it should review (and hear) the evidence on these topics prior to directing any (if any) mediation and/or expert conferencing on these topics.

Due the reasons given above, mediation and/or expert conferencing on Farm Environment Plans and Sub-catchment Planning will not proceed as set out in the hearings schedule. Therefore these items have been removed from the hearings schedule to avoid any confusion or expert anticipated commitments.



Greg Hill
Chair of the Hearing Panel
9 April 2019