

Canterbury Regional Council
Resource Management Act
Hearing of Resource Consent applications CRC222040, CRC222041 and CRC222043 by
Canterbury Regional Council

MINUTE #1 OF THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS

1. This Minute relates to an application by the Rivers Unit of the Canterbury Regional Council ('the Applicant'), otherwise known as Environment Canterbury (or ECan), for global resource consents to continue discharging agrichemicals within and adjacent to all water ways in the Canterbury Region (referenced as resource consent numbers CRC222040, CRC222041 and CRC222043).
2. The consulting company PDP has been engaged by Canterbury Regional Council to process these consent applications on its behalf.
3. The Panel has recently been forwarded a copy of a letter from PDP to the Canterbury Regional Council Consents Manager regarding how any actual or perceived conflicts of interest of PDP, and PDP staff, are to be managed relating to the processing of the above consent applications on the Applicant's behalf.
4. In particular, the environmental effects assessment document (AEE) that accompanied the consent applications included a report on surface water quality and ecology that was prepared by Dr Duncan Gray who, at the time, was employed by ECan in the position of Senior Scientist – Water Quality and Ecology. Dr Gray has since resigned from ECan and took up a position with PDP on 4th March 2024.
5. Since joining PDP, ECan's Rivers Unit has continued to use Dr Gray's services, including the provision of advice, preparation of expert evidence and (if required) attendance at the hearing to speak to his evidence, should he be required by the Panel to do so.
6. The Panel has viewed the measures undertaken by PDP to date, and those proposed, for managing conflict of interest issues associated with Dr Gray, as outlined in the attached PDP letter. It is our preliminary view that we are comfortable with the existing and proposed management arrangements around his continued involvement. We note that Dr Gray did all of his technical assessment work and preparation of final evidence whilst he was employed by ECan.
7. If any party to the hearing wishes to respond to the Panel's finding on this matter they can do so either through written communication with the Consents Coordinator or when the hearing commences on Monday 25th March.
8. Any further communications relating this Minute in the first instance should be directed to:

Ms Alison Cooper, CRC Consents Coordinator,
Environment Canterbury

PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140
Email: hearings@ecan.govt.nz Phone 0800 765588.

Dated 21 March 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Ryder', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Greg Ryder (Chair)
On behalf of the Hearing Commissioners