

Northland Regional Council (NRC) Response to Minute 2 of the Panel Convenor – Convenor’s Conference

Invitation to comment on following matters:

- (a) The Applicant has had meetings with NRC staff both prior to and after the lodgement of the application. NRC were able to review draft technical documents and conditions of consent prior to lodgement of the substantive application and provide comments to the applicant. The pre-lodgement meeting however was too close to lodgement date for NRC comments to be reflected in the application.
- (b) Only in-house resource consent planner and monitoring staff engaged on this application.
- (c) Applicant has scheduled a meeting late June to discuss NRC feedback on conditions.
- (d) No differences of opinion have been identified.
- (e) Application is of medium complexity. There are no novel or difficult legal issues identified so far. There is however a number of technical documents that are scientific and highly specialised, and which contain extensive information.
- (f) The proposed consent conditions are not accepted as drafted in the application.
- (g) NRC is willing to engage directly with the Expert Panel and/or Applicant, as necessary, to advance progress of the application

Issues:

As a result of its initial review of the technical documents, NRC raised the following matters with the applicant:

- It is unclear from the Assessment of Effects on Groundwater report what the actual or potential adverse effects on surface water allocation and wetlands will be as a result of the diversion of groundwater by the project;
- Uncertainty of effects on existing groundwater users, as no detail on how Applicant has identified the existing groundwater users.
- Proposed condition of consent regarding flood effects is limited to habitable buildings only, although Flood Assessment report states that the assessment did not distinguish between habitable and non-habitable buildings. Raises issue of adverse effects on existing uses of non-habitable buildings.