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**Sent:** Friday, 7 February 2020 2:25 p.m.

**Subject:** Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan - Notice of Pre Hearing Conference

Good afternoon

Further to the issuing of the notice of pre hearing conference some parties have asked for clarification as to whether they need to seek leave of the court to be excused if they withdrew their interest in Topic A, or were excused attendance at the hearing on the basis that they had no interest in the subject matters of the hearing. I have referred such queries to Judge Borthwick who directs:

*If the parties have no interest in the general issue raised by the court as to the interpretation and implementation of the plan and, secondly, agree to abide by the court's decision on those matters then I will grant them leave to be excused.*

*Judge Borthwick*

*Environment Court Judge*

*7 February 2020*

Kind regards



**Cathy Harlow**

Hearing Manager

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