



THE ENVIRONMENT COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

NOTICE OF EXPERT WITNESS CONFERENCE

Expert witness conferencing has been arranged for planning expert witnesses with regards to the proposed Southland Land and Water Plan.

The conference of the **planning** experts has been set down for **2 days** and will take place as follows:

DATE:	Thursday 6 August 2020 – Friday 7 August 2020	
TIME:	10:00 AM	
VENUE:	Thursday 6 August 2020 Hearing Room AG02 Ground Floor Christchurch Justice Precinct 20 Lichfield Street Christchurch	Friday 7 August 2020 Hearing Room A348 Level 3 Christchurch Justice Precinct 20 Lichfield Street Christchurch

The purpose of the expert witness conferencing is to enhance the efficiency of the Court hearing process by providing for the experts to confer and identify the issues on which they agree and on which they disagree, with reasons. This will enable the Court to focus primarily on matters that remain in dispute while understanding the basis for agreed matters.

DIRECTIONS

Counsel are to provide their respective experts with a copy of the Environment Court's Expert Witnesses Code of Conduct (Part 7, Environment Court Practice Note 2014) and Protocol for Expert Witness Conferences (Appendix 3, Environment Court Practice Note 2014) and to brief them on their responsibilities under these. Particular attention is to be drawn to those parts which require experts to express their views independent of counsel and the parties who have engaged them.

Experts are to be provided with all documentation relevant to the appeals updated as appropriate, pre-circulated evidence and reports necessary to enable them to thoroughly understand the issues in the proceeding. The experts must attend the conference fully up-to-date with the relevant information.

Counsel are to liaise with conferencing experts to prepare a conference agenda addressing key issues identified and pre-circulate it in electronic form to all conference participants, including the facilitators **three working days** prior to the conference.

Counsel are to liaise on the provision of a suitable recorder to attend the conference to assist with preparation of the Joint Witness Statement under the direction of the experts and facilitator. The Recorder is to be supplied with the necessary technical equipment, including a laptop computer, projector and screen to facilitate preparation and recording of the Statement.

Briefs of evidence are to be filed and served as set out at paragraphs [22 – 23] in the courts minute dated 13 July 2020.

The Joint Witness Statement agreed from the conference will identify the issues, both agreed and not agreed, accompanied by the experts' reasoning set out as succinctly as the circumstances allow. The final Joint Statement is to be filed **within three working days** of the conference concluding. Counsel are to arrange for one of their number to be responsible for circulation of the joint statement to the parties, the facilitator and filing with the Court.

Participants are to be advised by counsel that all aspects of conferencing are privileged except for the signed joint witness statement prepared by the experts, which will become part of the public record.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES

Information on the Environment Court and the Court's Practice Notes which serve as a guide, are available at www.justice.govt.nz/courts/environment-court. Please direct to me all correspondence or enquiries about this notice or the procedures at the conferencing. If you have any special requirements please advise me, preferably well in advance, so that they can be attended to.

Dated at Christchurch Environment Court Registry on 27 July 2020

Karina Kelly

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