

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
AND of submissions for a proposed water conservation order under section 209 of the Act
BETWEEN NGĀTI TAMA KI TE WAIPOUNAMU AND ANDREW YUILL
Applicants
AND TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Territorial Authority

**MINUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
(25 March 2020)**

[1] The court is aware that the Special Tribunal appointed under s202 of the RMA to consider an application for a Water Conservation Order (in relation to the Te Waikoropupū Springs and associated water bodies) issued its report and recommendations to the Minister for the Environment recently. The 15 working day period to lodge submissions to the Environment Court is currently underway.

[2] In light of the Government's announcement yesterday that New Zealand will soon be placed at COVID-19 Alert Level 4, and uncertainty over how long such measures will last, the court will extend the period for lodging submissions to ensure parties are not put under any undue pressure.

[3] Accordingly, I direct that the 15 working day period to lodge any submissions with the Environment Court is extended by another 15 working days. All submissions are to be lodged by **Friday 1 May 2020**.

[4] The Christchurch Environment Court is well set up to work remotely from home so will continue to process and accept any and all filing as normal. The only difference is that no hard copies are currently required to be filed – all filing must be made



electronically to my hearing manager (Christine.McKee@justice.govt.nz) and filing fees paid via bank transfer (instructions set out on our website).

[5] On proceedings generally, in view of current circumstances concerning COVID-19, Level 4, parties should continue to refer to the Environment Court's website. Counsel should note that the court is aware of the general need to grant waivers of statutory time periods but is not always aware of the proceedings that may be coming in. As such, parties are invited to apply for waivers and extensions where needed via email to Ms McKee.

[6] Leave is reserved for any party to apply for further (or other) directions.



J J M Hassan
Environment Judge

Issued: 25 March 2020

