


IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991
AND
IN THE MATTER OF 24 applications by the Aupouri Aquifer Water Permit Applicants (AAWPA) to the Northland Regional Council to take groundwater from the deep shell bed aquifer of the Aupouri Peninsula (REQ.596300).

SECTION 115 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

MINUTE #8

HEARING COMMISSIONER PANEL

1. In response to the Panel's various directions, we have now received further legal submissions, evidence and a supplementary s42A report from AAWPA, the Department of Conservation and Northland Regional Council.
2. While there remain fundamental differences, that material addresses the matters that we required and we thank all involved for the additional work that has been undertaken, including further expert conferencing, since the hearing was adjourned on 3 September 2020.
3. The Panel has considered whether any further information is required before we move to deliberate on our decision and has determined that it is unlikely that such would either close the remaining issues gap or assist us further.
4. The Panel has therefore determined that the hearing should now be formally closed, with effect 4pm Friday, 2 July 2021, and that deliberations will commence.
5. We note that under s115 RMA a decision must be notified no later than 15 working days after the hearing is closed unless extended under s37A(4) or (5). Given the amount of material to be considered, the time that has already elapsed post-hearing proper, the significance of the matters raised, and the current commitments of the commissioners, it will be necessary to extend that deadline. While the exact time required by us is, at this point, uncertain, the Panel will be working to complete its decision by the end of August 2021.
6. Any correspondence relating to this Direction is to be sent through Ms Alissa Sluys, Hearing Administrator, Northland Regional Council, alissas@nrc.govt.nz.



David Hill
Chair, Hearings Panel
2 July 2021