

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991
AND

IN THE MATTER OF Meridian Energy Ltd – regional land use consent including removal of wetlands – SH15, McCathie Road / Marsden Point Road / Rama Road, Ruakākā [APP.045356.01.01].

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

DIRECTION #1

HEARING PANEL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of Direction #1 is to set out the timetable for report, evidence and legal submissions exchange.

DIRECTIONS

2. Pursuant to sections 34 and 34A RMA the Northland Regional Council (**NRC**) has appointed independent hearings commissioners David Hill (chairperson) and Sheila Taylor (**the Hearing Panel**) to hear and decide the regional land use (earthworks, and associated stormwater diversion and discharges, and vegetation clearance) resource consent application by Meridian Energy Limited (**the applicant**) relating to a proposed solar farm located on three sites at SH15, McCathie Road / Marsden Point Road / Rama Road, Ruakākā, having a collective area of 200ha.
3. The hearing is set down for Monday, 5 August 2024 through Wednesday, 7 August 2024 (as required) at the Distinction Whangarei Hotel & Conference Centre, 9 Riverside Drive, Whangarei commencing at 9.00am each day.
4. Pursuant to sections 41B & 41C RMA, the following timetabling directions are made:
 - (a) Council's section 42A hearing report shall be made available on NRC's website no later than 4pm Friday, 12 July 2024.
 - (b) The applicant's expert evidence shall be lodged with NRC no later than 4pm Friday, 19 July 2024 and be made available on its website as soon as possible thereafter.
 - (c) Any submitter's expert evidence shall be lodged with NRC no later than 4pm Monday, 29 July 2024 and be made available on its website as soon as possible thereafter.
 - (d) Any opening legal submissions (including any rebuttal evidence that qualifies as such under the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023) shall be lodged with

NRC no later than 4pm Friday, 2 August 2024 and be made available on its website as soon as possible thereafter.

5. At the hearing all reports and evidence will be taken as read unless otherwise advised by the Hearing Panel.
6. For the avoidance of doubt:
 - (a) lay submitter representations are not required to be pre-circulated (although that is certainly encouraged) and may be presented on the day of appearance; and
 - (b) expert evidence is evidence from witnesses who qualify as such in terms of the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023.
7. Any queries or correspondence related to this Direction should be sent through to the Hearing Administrator, at alissas@nrc.govt.nz.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

David Hill (Chairperson)
Hearing Panel

7 June 2024