

7 July 2009

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APPLICATIONS FOR HYDRO DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED OFFICERS' REPORT AND HEARING DETAILS

Thank you for your submission on the applications from Hydro Developments Limited.

The West Coast Regional Council and Buller District Council are currently preparing a joint s42A officers' report for the resource consent hearing. The report will be circulated to submitters who indicated they wanted to be heard by Thursday 23rd July 2009, one week in advance of the forthcoming hearing which will commence on Thursday 30th July 2009 and may run for approximately one week.

If, when you wrote your submission, you indicated that you did not want to speak at the hearing, we are not automatically sending you a copy of the report, which is normal practice.

However, the report will be available on the website www.wcrc.govt.nz/stocktonplateau or you can contact the Regional Council to request a copy.

Attached is a preliminary update on the proposed hearing including details of the Hearing Committee along with a provisional timetable for the hearing and presentation of evidence.

If you have any questions regarding this application, please contact Rachel Clark at the West Coast Regional Council on (03) 7680466 ext 268, or Jane Bayley at Staig & Smith Ltd on (03) 5456883.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Clark
Senior Consents Officer
West Coast Regional Council



Jane Bayley
Staig & Smith Ltd
On behalf of the Buller District Council

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Resource Consent Applications by Hydro Developments Limited for the Stockton Plateau Hydro Electric Power Scheme

PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE HEARING

Introduction

1. The West Coast Regional Council and the Buller District Council have appointed a Joint Hearing Committee to hear and decide all applications made by Hydro Developments Limited ("the applicant") associated with the development of a new hydro-electric power scheme at Stockton Plateau. The Regional Council is the lead authority and so will be responsible for administering the hearing.
2. The Committee comprises Mr Terry Archer, Mr John Lumsden, and Ms Sharon McGarry.
3. Mr Archer will chair the hearing, which will be held in Westport at the Bridge Club Rooms, Lyndhurst Street, Westport, starting on **Thursday 30th July 2009**.
4. A joint "officers' report" prepared pursuant to s42A of the Resource Management Act will be pre-circulated to all parties whom wish to be heard no later than **Thursday 23rd July 2009**. The report will be prepared by Rachel Clark of the West Coast Regional Council, and Jane Bayley of Staig & Smith Ltd who will assess the applications on behalf of the Buller District Council.
5. All parties are requested to contact Karen Glover (Administration Officer) at the West Coast Regional Council no later than Friday 24th July 2009 to advise how much time they consider they will need to present their evidence. Karen's e-mail address is kg@wcrc.govt.nz and her phone number is 03 768 0466 extension 267. Advisers to the Committee will set a provisional timetable, which will be updated periodically along with hearing information which will be uploaded on www.wcrc.govt.nz/stocktonplateau.
6. If you no longer wish to be heard, then please contact Karen Glover as soon as possible.

Provisional Timetable for the Hearing

7. The hearing will commence:
In Westport from Thursday 30th July 2009 at the Westport Bridge Club Rooms, 12A Lyndhurst Street at 2pm.
Running from Thursday 30th July to Friday 31st July, then Monday 3rd August for that week or until the hearing is completed. Please note the timetable is provisional and may be subject to alteration.
8. We will hear the Applicant and Submitters as follows:
 - The Applicant's case will be heard in the period Thursday 30th and Friday 31st July 2009.
 - Submitters supporting the application will provisionally be heard on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th August 2009.
 - Submitters opposing the application will provisionally be heard on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th August 2009.
 - The Council Planners (including as necessary, any of the consultants who help assess the consent applications) will provisionally be heard Thursday 6th August 2009.
 - The Applicant will close with its right of reply.
9. Please note that this is a preliminary timetable and the Committee may request submitters to present evidence earlier to make full use of the time available. This would only occur if the proceedings did not take as long as indicated above.
10. The hearing will commence at 9 am each day, and will be scheduled to finish no later than 5 pm. We have made exceptions to this – to allow for the Committee to undertake a site visit, the hearing will commence at 2pm on Thursday 30th July. To allow parties time to travel, the hearing will end on Friday 31st July at 2.30pm and will re-commence at 10am on Monday 3rd August.

Preliminary Determinations

11. Pursuant to s41C of the Act the Committee has made the following determinations:
 - Evidence greater than 3 pages shall be provided in hard copy and preferably electronically to the Regional Council 2 working days prior to presentation. Evidence is to be sent to Karen Glover at kg@wrcrc.govt.nz. Evidence shorter than three pages will be able to be handed out at the hearing in advance of reading.
 - 12 hard copies of evidence and/or large figures or photographs, must be provided to Karen at least 2 working days prior to presentation. Preferably an electronic version or CD of those large figures and photographs should also be provided to Karen Glover by the due dates.
 - The Applicant will be able to prepare its Right of Reply after submitters opposing the application have been heard. This evidence is to be limited to matters in dispute.
12. During the hearing, hard copy evidence should be provided to Karen either directly (at the hearing location) or for her attention at the Buller District Council offices in Westport.

13. Copies of all relevant information received post notification and evidence will be put on the website www.wcrc.govt.nz/stocktonplateau
14. Any questions regarding this memorandum should be directed in the first instance to Rachel Clark at the West Coast Regional Council phone (03) 7680466 ext 268 or e-mail Rachel.Clark@wcr.govt.nz

Yours faithfully



Rachel Clark
Senior Consents Officer
West Coast Regional Council