

Minute to the Parties

[1] This Minute addresses the memoranda of Mr Carr dated 27 and 31 January 2012 and Meridian Energy Ltd dated 26 January 2012.

Friend of Submitters

[2] Meridian has declined to appoint a Friend of Submitters.

[3] At the court's directions, Environment Commissioner Charles Manning will provide advice to the parties as to the court's practice and procedures.

[4] It is not, however, Commissioner Manning's role (or the court's role) to provide legal advice to the parties. Nor does the court, as Meridian correctly points out, give advice in the nature of strategy or an assessment of the merits of an individual's case.

[5] Given the nature and frequency of Mr Carr's enquiries, I have directed the Registry to refer future correspondence, in the first instance, to Commissioner Manning. If the enquiry is a general one and in the nature of the court's process or procedures he may respond. The response will be in writing and sent to Meridian, the Councils and Mr Carr. Where court directions (or an application) are required, Commissioner Manning may provide guidance as to the procedure to do the same.

Conference of Tipapa Ltd and Meridian Energy Ltd

[6] It is not clear from Meridian's memorandum whether it seeks an amendment of directions made on 16 January 2012 in relation to this conference, at least in relation to the directions concerning proposed traffic and road management.

[7] The directions are confirmed. In addition, Meridian is further directed to attend the conference with its traffic witnesses. Mr Carr should do likewise.

[8] It does not follow from the directions that Meridian is obliged to amend the application for resource consent to provide alternative access (nor is this outcome excluded). The purpose of the directions is stated in clause 11 of the Draft Hearing



Procedures. The matters raised by Mr Carr on behalf of Tipapa Ltd are ideally suited for this type of conference.

DATED at CHRISTCHURCH this 3 day of February 2012



J E Borthwick
Environment Judge

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¹ JEB\WFDM\MeridianMinute-1Feb2012.doc