

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of Stage 3 of the
Queenstown Lakes
Proposed District Plan

MINUTE 9 – SUSPENSION OF HEARING PROCESS

1. Following the Prime Minister’s announcements of an immediate move to a Level 3 response to Covid 19 and a further move to Level 4 in 48 hours, the First Schedule process cannot proceed at this time.
2. All previous hearing directions are accordingly suspended and the Stage 3 hearing will not commence on 5 May.
3. To state the obvious, it is unclear when matters might return to some semblance of normality, so as to permit the First Schedule process to resume. My current intention is to circulate an indicative timetable when the Level 4 restrictions at least are lifted (and potentially Level 3 restrictions also) and invite input from the parties before finalising it. For those parties who have not supplied an electronic address, postal services may not be available and so I would ask you to keep an eye on the Council website.
4. It is likely that even at that point, a greater level of social distancing will apply than prior to the Covid pandemic occurring, with encouragement of remote appearances. I would encourage parties not already equipped for that to investigate the practicability of their using options such as zoom, skype and similar in the meantime.
5. Many parties will be involved in other RMA processes: mediations and hearing of Environment Court appeals on earlier stages of the Proposed District Plan, and resource consent applications. Each process has its own dynamics. Accordingly, you should not assume that they also will be put on hold. I have been asked to advise you that the Council will be in touch with you separately in those cases
6. Until I contact you again, stay safe.

Dated 24 March 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

**Trevor Robinson
Chair
Stage 3 Hearing Panel**