

IN THE MATTER                      of the Resource  
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER                      of the Queenstown Lakes  
Proposed District Plan

AND

IN THE MATTER                      of Hearing Stream 5: District  
Wide Provisions

**MINUTE RESPONDING TO COUNSEL'S REQUEST**  
**FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO FILE EVIDENCE**

1.            The Hearing Panel has received a memorandum from Ms Irving, counsel for Aurora Energy Limited (Submitter #635), requesting that Aurora be allowed to file its evidence by 12pm on Friday 9 September 2016. The memorandum traverses a number of circumstances in the immediate and near future which, it suggests, make the timely lodgement of evidence difficult.
  
2.            I note first that there is some suggestion in the memorandum that evidence is due by Monday 5 September next. This is incorrect. The notice of hearing, sent out by email on 19 August last, specified 12 noon on Friday 2 September 2016 as the date by which evidence is to be filed.
  
3.            I am not inclined to grant such a lengthy extension. The reasons given in paragraph 2 of the memorandum infer that witnesses who are employed by the submitter are being required by the employer to give priority to another matter in the next three days. Given that the evidence is due to be lodged by midday tomorrow I would have expected such evidence to have been largely completed by now. The submission was lodged 10 months ago, and the submitter has had notice of the dates of the hearing for 2 weeks, although the Council website has advertised that this hearing would be in mid-September for several months. I am surprised that this request has only been received less than 24 hours before the evidence was due to be lodged.
  
4.            If I were to agree to counsel's request, the Hearing Panel would be put in the position of having to review Aurora's evidence over the weekend of 10-11 September. Given the lack of preparedness by the submitter and the low priority obviously given to this matter by Aurora, I do not consider that burden should be

placed on the Panel. I also note that such late filing could inconvenience other submitters who have an interest in the Aurora submission.

5. Given that the Panel is unlikely to spend the weekend of 3-4 September reading evidence, I am prepared to grant an extension to Aurora for lodgement of evidence to 10am on Monday 5 September 2016.

For the Hearing Panel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nugent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Denis Nugent (Chair)

1 September 2016