

13 December 2018

Sent by email merge

Dear.....

**Proposed Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments- Expert Conferencing re: Commercial Vegetable Production.**

The Hearings Panel has requested that Expert Conferencing occur regarding the Plan Change's provisions for Commercial Vegetable Production. The following submitters have been asked to attend:

- A S Wilcox & Sons Ltd
- Advisory Committee on Regional Environment (ACRE)
- Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game and Eastern Region Fish and Game
- Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited
- Balle Bros Group
- Charion Investment Trust
- Federated Farmers of New Zealand
- Fertiliser Association of New Zealand
- Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd
- Hira Bhana and Co Ltd
- Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ)
- Jivan Produce Ltd
- Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association Inc (PVGA)
- Ravensdown Limited
- Southern Fresh Foods Ltd
- Sutherland Produce Ltd
- The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated
- Waikato Regional Council

The details of the expert conferencing are set out below.

The expert conferencing sessions will be held on the following dates commencing at 9.30 am

**Day 1 – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2019**

**Day 2 - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2019**

The venue is the **Conference room at Distinction Hotel, Garnett Avenue** (Te Rapa) Hamilton.

The Facilitator will be Mr David Hill.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the expert conferencing is to address the following questions and, if possible, seek an agreed set of plan provisions to be presented to the Hearing Panel (as a joint witness statement):

1. How to provide for crop rotation/leasing land/moving commercial vegetable production from site to site while ensuring no increase in losses of the four contaminants?
2. How best to describe nutrient losses, given known issues with Overseer applicability to commercial vegetable production?
3. Should the proposed cap on total area of commercial vegetable production be retained, and if not, what constraints/limits on new commercial vegetable production should apply (if any)?

It is expected that the Waikato Regional Council, as a submitter, will pre-circulate an amended set of plan provisions to assist the discussions. These amended provisions will not have any particular significance or weight, but will be to initiate discussion.

Any outcome of expert conferencing will be published on the Council's website and made accessible to all submitters on this topic.

### **Process Matters**

Attendance at the conferencing sessions is not mandatory, but the Hearing Panel encourages your experts to attend and participate. It is likely this process will greatly assist the Hearing Panel's hearing process.

#### Attendance and experts to attend

Could you please advise the Council's Independent Hearing Coordinator (details set out below) no later than the 18 January 2019 the following.

- That you intend to participate in the expert conferencing sessions, or not.
- The experts, and their expertise, that you intend to have participate in the expert conferencing sessions
- The email contact details of those experts

Once the experts who will attend are known, a more detailed agenda of the conferencing sessions will be provided (by Mr David Hill).

Hearing of the Commercial Vegetable Production provisions.

The hearing of a range of topics, one of which is the Commercial Vegetable Production provisions, are indicatively scheduled to commence mid-June 2019 and run until early August 2019.

**Administrative Matters**

The conferencing sessions are being administered by Mr Steve Rice (Rice Resources Limited), the Council's Independent Hearing Coordinator. Mr Rice or one of his associates will handle all the communications on this matter. Please do not contact Waikato Regional Council staff as any requests or relevant information may not reach the Hearings Coordinator.

Should you require any further information with regard to expert conferencing, please contact Steve Rice - contact details below:

Rice Resources Limited

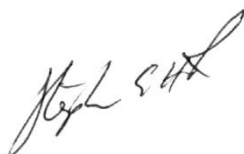
Steve Rice:

PO Box 431, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240

[HealthyRiversHearingCoordinator@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:HealthyRiversHearingCoordinator@waikatoregion.govt.nz) and cc to [steve@riceres.co.nz](mailto:steve@riceres.co.nz)

Phone: Cell: 021 191 2346, Office: 07 846 5267

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Rice', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Hearing Coordinator** for  
Waikato Regional Council