



**Minute of the Hearings Panel #15**  
**Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant**  
**GWRC WAR170229**

**Introduction**

1. On 16 December 2019, the Panel requested that the applicant and the GWRC respond to the Panel by no later than 5pm Friday 14 February 2020 to provide an update on its current approach, which was to include:
  - i. progress to date;
  - ii. an update on consultation undertaken to date;
  - iii. an updated timetable;
  - iv. the implications of the length of time since public notification and the matter of scope;
  - v. the revised timeframe for a hearing, considering iv. above; and
  - vi. a summary of relevant changes to the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, as updated by any appeals

**Response to Minute 14 from the applicant and the GWRC**

2. The applicant and the GWRC provided a response to the Panel on the 14 February 2020. This included:
  - a. an update on progress to date, identifying further work is still progressing on treatment options, community engagement, expert workshops and a scope analysis;
  - b. an update on consultation undertaken to date;
  - c. no update to the timetable;
  - d. a discussion the implications of the length of time since notification, the matter of scope and options moving forward; and
  - e. a suggested timing for a further update.
3. In respect to the revised timeframe for the hearing, the applicant and GWRC advised that a revised date for a hearing cannot yet be identified, including whether there will be a hearing at all.
4. The applicant and GWRC offered to provide a further update by 20 March 2020, which may be preceded by the applicant advising which option of those listed in section 5 of the response they will be pursuing.

**Panel Response**

5. The Panel continues to consider the approach being taken by the applicant and GWRC is appropriate for the intention of working to resolve outstanding issues, address submitters concerns and determine the best option for progressing this matter.

**Updated Directions:**

6. Pursuant to sections 41 and 41C of the RMA, the Hearings Panel requests that the applicant and the GWRC respond to the Panel by no later than **5pm Friday 20 March 2020** to advise on:
  - a. the applicant's intended direction to either progress the current proposal (with or without the recommended add-on treatment), re-notify, or withdraw and lodge a new application; and
  - b. an updated timetable which reflects the intended direction set out in a.
7. In terms of the above request, any response shall be provided to GWRC electronically by email or be made available for downloading from the GWRC website <http://www.gw.govt.nz/Featherston-WWTP/>.

## Correspondence

8. Any correspondence to the Hearings Panel should be directed through [notifications@gw.govt.nz](mailto:notifications@gw.govt.nz).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gina Sweetman', is positioned above the typed name.

Gina Sweetman  
**Independent Commissioner – Chair**  
**For and behalf of the Hearings Panel**