

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
CHRISTCHURCH REGISTRY

ENV-2024-CHC-39

I TE KŌTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA
ŌTAUTAHI ROHE

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of appeals under clause 14(1) of Schedule 1 RMA in relation to the non-freshwater parts of the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021

BETWEEN **ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE SOCIETY INCORPORATED**

AND **OTHERS**

Appellants

AND **OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Respondent

MEMORANDUM SEEKING LEAVE TO ATTEND MEDIATION REMOTELY

27 November 2024

Environmental Defence Society Inc
John Commissaris
john@eds.org.nz
PO Box 91736
Victoria St West
AUCKLAND 1142

TO: The Commissioner
Environment Court
CHRISTCHURCH

1. I refer to the Commissioner's direction dated 29 October 2024 that parties need to seek leave to attend Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement mediations remotely.
2. The Environmental Defence Society (EDS) attended mediation on Group 3 (integrated management) on 12 and 13 November 2024 in person. It is a party to mediation on Group 5 (land, freshwater and soil) which is scheduled for 3, 4, 5 and 6 December 2024.
3. Due to resourcing constraints, EDS is unable to attend mediation on Group 5 in person and seeks leave to attend remotely. With respect to its interest in the topic:
 - (a) EDS has one appeal point concerning LF-LS-P16A – Managing pests. EDS seeks amendments to the policy so that new plantation forests in or adjacent to high value landscape, coastal or indigenous biodiversity areas do not consist of wilding conifer species and that the policy should include direction to eliminate (not just control) pests.
 - (b) EDS is listed as a section 274 party to other appeal points covered in Group 5, however its interest is limited and is supportive of Council's position.
4. While EDS acknowledges the value of in-person attendance, on this occasion it is unable to make the necessary arrangements. I note that Forest & Bird seeks the same relief as EDS in relation to LF-LS-P16A and that Mr Anderson will be appearing for Forest & Bird at the Group 5 mediation in person. EDS's position is aligned with that of Forest & Bird on this point.
5. On that basis, EDS respectfully requests leave to attend Group 5 mediation remotely via AVL.

DATED at Auckland this 27th day of November 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Commissaris', written in a cursive style.

John Commissaris

Signed for and on behalf of the
**ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE SOCIETY
INCORPORATED** by its duly authorised
agent

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE:

Environmental Defence Society
PO Box 91736
Victoria St West
AUCKLAND 1142

Email: shay@eds.org.nz / john@eds.org.nz / dallan@ellisgould.co.nz

Phone: +64 27 946 8079