

Applicant:	Blueskin Energy Limited
Location:	147 Church Road, Merton
Application Number:	LUC-2015-469
Topic:	Process for hearing evidence and submissions

This minute is to advise of the process that I will follow to hear expert evidence and submissions at the hearing.

Changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 now require expert evidence to be exchanged prior to the hearing. The applicant is to provide their expert evidence 10 days before the hearing and if submitters are to provide any expert evidence it is to be provided 5 days before the hearing. The intent of this change is as follows:

- Improve the focus of hearings and reduce the time that it takes,
- Avoid any late surprises or changes to the applicant's proposal,
- Allow time for all the parties to consider the evidence before the hearing.

For evidence to have the status of expert evidence, it must be pre-circulated in accordance with the appropriate time frame. It is also appropriate for it to be prepared with reference to the Environment Court Code of Conduct for expert witnesses. An expert witness must not behave as an advocate and has a duty to impartially assist the commissioner on matters within the expert's area of expertise.

In terms of the process I will follow at the hearing, I advise that I will read the pre-circulated expert evidence prior to the hearing and therefore I do not require it to be restated orally at the hearing. I will allow a very brief summary of key points as an introduction but I do not want this to be an opportunity for a lengthy dissertation on material that has been pre-read or as a means to introduce new material.

There are a large number of submitters that wish to be heard. No time frames will be specified for each submitter but it would be appreciated if the submissions are focused and concise. It is my intention to hear the submissions alphabetically unless there are particular time constraints. If a submitter has time constraints they should discuss these with Wendy Collard the Council's Governance Support Officer for this hearing on 03 477 4000.

Regards



Colin Weatherall
COMMISSIONER