

CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL

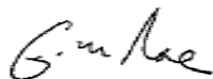
TKO PROPERTIES – RC230179

MINUTE 15 OF THE HEARING PANEL

1. A memorandum was received yesterday from Department of Conservation in which it requests in very strong terms that the Panel immediately closes the hearing. The memorandum was sent to the parties for information yesterday.
2. The Panel is aware that this process has taken some time, and we are also well aware of our responsibility to run an efficient and fair hearing. This has been acknowledged in our communications with the parties, where we have on all occasions provided the context for requesting further information, joint witness statements, and supplementary evidence to address issues that are of particular concern or interest to us. Importantly, the parties have been given the opportunity to respond to the new information.
3. The Department's memorandum is critical of the lack of opportunity to present orally to some of the new information and evidence, emphasising that the hearing took place over eight months ago. The Panel had considered reconvening the hearing, however it was determined more efficient to call for written statements of evidence and to consider those and the responses from submitters without the need for a further hearing. The Panel feels we have been able to understand the evidence and new information without the need to test it further through a reconvened hearing.
4. Our Minute 14, issued on 17 July 2025, asked for clarification on one aspect of the Applicant's final right of reply, regarding the implications of a recently granted consent for Rocky Point's proposed compensation planting in Hemlock Valley. That issue was recently raised by the Department of Conservation, and by Ms Wardle, and we agree it is a valid concern. We await the Applicant's response, which will shortly bring the hearing process to a close. We see no reason to curtail the process at this very last step, but we do urge the Applicant to respond as soon as possible on this point.
5. We also point out that the Department of Conservation, through its Memorandum, has managed to make some statements about what it sees as legal and practical impediments to changing the consent on the adjacent land. We expect the Applicant to address that in its reply, as those concerns are shared by the Panel.

DATED this 22nd day of July 2025

Signed by



GM Rae
Chair of Hearing Panel
