



## **Environment Weekly Update**

**For the week starting 10 July 2023**

**Hon. David Parker, Minister for the Environment**

**Hon. Peeni Henare, Associate Minister for the Environment**

**Hon. Rachel Brooking, Associate Minister for the Environment**

**Hon. James Shaw, Associate Minister for the Environment**

### **Minister's comments**

# Context

## 1. Water

### 1.1. Rakaia Water Conservation Order – Environment Court declaration proceedings

Minister Parker is party to Environment Court declaratory proceedings in Canterbury relating to the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988 (Rakaia WCO).

Briefings earlier this year (BRF-2808 and BRF-2948) summarised Environment Canterbury's (ECan) declarations to the Environment Court, and other parties' alternative declarations, seeking to clarify roles and responsibilities in relation to the monitoring and enforcement of the Rakaia WCO. Officials (and Crown Law) recommended Minister Parker join proceedings, to which he agreed. The notice of intention to join was subsequently filed by Crown Law. The Court then formally joined Minister Parker as a party to the proceedings.

Crown Law appeared at the pre-hearing conference on 25 April 2023 on Minister Parker's behalf alongside other parties of the declaratory proceedings, where it was agreed that facilitated conferencing between parties would be required in order to refine the declarations (currently a large number, seeking similar outcomes). At the direction of Judge Borthwick, Barrister Stephen Christensen has been assigned as special advisor to assist with the conferencing.

16 August 2023 is the proposed date for conferencing, with a preference for all parties to attend in person in Christchurch. Mr Christensen has advised that all parties wishing to attend conferencing should participate fully in the discussion, whilst those who choose not to attend will need to abide by whatever outcomes the other parties in attendance arrive at in terms of the orders that are to be sought by the Court. Accordingly, Crown Law counsel will attend conferencing in Christchurch, or possibly remotely, on Minister Parker's behalf.

Out of scope

