



## **Environment Weekly Update**

**For the week starting 28 August 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**

Out of scope

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

Minister Parker is currently a 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. BRF-2948 signalled that one of the declarations sought relates directly to Minister Parker's functions and duties under sections 24 and 25 of the RMA.

Facilitated conferencing between all parties took place on Wednesday 16 August 2023 to discuss some of the legal issues. Crown Law attended on behalf of Minister Parker.

9(2)(ba)(i)

ECan has been directed to provide information on resource consents relating to clauses 4 to 6 of the Rakaia WCO. Other parties have been asked to provide any particular questions they have for Manawa Energy relating to the Lake Coleridge project over the next few weeks, which will then be addressed at an online presentation by Manawa Energy sometime in the next 6 weeks. The purpose of the presentation is for Manawa Energy to explain the stored water method to the parties.

All parties will then reconvene discussions at a further facilitated session in the first 3 weeks of October. Officials are continuing to work with Crown Law in the lead up to the Manawa Energy presentation and next facilitated session. At the next facilitated session after the presentation, parties will again attempt to refine the legal issues. Following this, officials should be in a better position to advise what evidence may be required.

Out of scope