

# **RM200234 Omamari Windfarm - Internal Hearing Commissioner**

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 24 February 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Wendy Robinson, Resource Consents Manager

## **Purpose/Ngā whāinga**

To seek a decision to appoint Councillor del la Varis-Woodcock as an Internal Hearing Commissioner for the hearing panel deciding the resource consent application for Omamari Windfarm (reference RM200234).

## **Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

Council needs to approve the appointment of Councillor del la Varis-Woodcock as an Internal Hearing Commissioner for the hearing panel deciding the resource consent application for Omamari Windfarm (reference RM200234).

## **Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga**

That Kaipara District Council:

- a) Approves the appointment of Councillor del la Varis-Woodcock as an Internal Hearing Commissioner for the hearing panel deciding the resource consent application for Omamari Windfarm (reference RM200234).
- b) Notes that the two remaining Independent Hearing Commissioners will be selected using the Hearing Commissioners Policy.

## **Context/Horopaki**

Following the adoption of the Hearing Commissioners Policy (dated 27 May 2020 and Attachment A), appointment of an internal hearing commissioner to the Omamari Windfarm resource consent application hearing panel has followed due process with appointment to be confirmed by Council resolution.

## **Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero**

Those qualified as internal hearing commissioners have been contacted in alphabetical order to determine availability and interest. Councillor del la Varis-Woodcock has been approached as a certified commissioner who does not have any actual or perceived conflict of interest or potential bias. Councillor del la Varis-Woodcock has confirmed her availability for a hearing to be held sometime between April and June (please note that the exact timeframe is to be confirmed) and her ability to take on the workload as required.

### **Factors to consider**

#### ***Certification***

Councillor del la Varis-Woodcock holds the required Ministry for the Environment certificate under the Making Good Decisions programme. Her existing certificate is valid until December 2021.

#### ***Hearing Panel***

Omamari Windfarm resource consent application will require a hearing panel of three commissioners with two Independent Hearing Commissioners being selected, as per the Hearing Commissioner's policy. One of the selected Independent Commissioners will act as Chair and attend any pre-hearing meetings required.

Independent Hearing Commissioners will be selected from the recently confirmed list of independent commissioners.

### ***Remuneration***

Remuneration for Internal Hearing Commissioners is set by the current Local Government Members Determination.

Remuneration for Independent Hearing Commissioners has been standardised.

## **Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā**

Hearing Commissioners are required to provide sound advice and make sound decisions, following robust practice, without any conflicts of interest or bias. The Hearing commissioners Policy outlines how Council will appoint appropriately accredited elected members to act as Internal Hearing Commissioners alongside Independent Hearing Commissioners. This policy has been implemented to form this recommendation.

## **Next steps/E whaiake nei**

Hearing Commissioners will proceed with the Omamari Windfarm resource consent application process.

## **Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga**

	Title
A	Hearing Commissioners Policy