

BOARD OF INQUIRY

Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

Media Advisory
26 June 2009

Inquiry hearing begins for proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

The Board of Inquiry will begin its hearing of submissions on the proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management at 9.30am on Tuesday 30 June in Wellington.

The Board will hear 83 of the 149 submitters at various locations around the country. The hearing will begin with a presentation from Sue Powell, General Manager of the Local Government Group at the Ministry for the Environment.

The Board will be travelling around the country to hear from submitters in Wellington, Dunedin, Christchurch, Nelson, Palmerston North, Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Napier, Whangarei, Taupo and Whakatane.

What: Inquiry hearing on the proposed NPS for Freshwater Management commences
When: 9.30am Tuesday 30 June 2009
Where: Wellington Convention Centre (Wellington Civic Centre, Suites 1&2, Level 2, Wellington Town Hall)

Note: As the hearings will take place across the country, please see the Board of Inquiry webpages for the full hearing time table:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/consultation/index.html>

For more information contact Viv Smith, Project Manager for the Board by phone 027 495 7096 or 03 365 9268 or by email viv.smith@mfe.govt.nz

Board of Inquiry Hearing procedures - media participation

The hearing will be in public (except if it needs to consider sensitive information) and representatives of the media are free to attend and report the proceedings. However, cameras, video-recorders and audio recorders may only be used in the hearing with the Board's prior consent. This can be obtained through the Project Manager at the Hearing.

Media kits (with information on the process, lists of submitters) will be available to the media. Interviews are not allowed in the hearing room. Board members will not be available for media interviews. Ministry for the Environment staff will be available to provide process information to the media.

For the full hearing procedures see

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/consultation/hearing-procedures.html>

Note for editors:

The independent Board of Inquiry was appointed by then Environment Minister, Trevor Mallard, in July 2008 to hear public views (public hearing) via an open submission process, and report back to the Minister for the Environment with recommendations on the proposed national policy statement for freshwater management.

Judge David Sheppard is the chairperson of the board and Kevin Prime, Jenni Vernon and Dr Jon Harding are board members. For information on the members of the Board go to <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/policy-statement-freshwater-management.html>.