

The Mayor,
KCDC

Cc Stephen McArthur, Group Manager

10 October 2013

Re PDP

I write further to the letter of Mr McArthur dated 9 October 2013. I find it confusing and potentially misleading. In paragraph 1 he states that the independent reviewer will determine “whether the PDP should continue to be progressed through the hearing process, be significantly changed or be withdrawn”.

However at paragraph 5 it is stated “To allow completion of the independent review and time to improve the hearing process, Council has decided to delay the start of formal hearings until next year”. The reference to delay gives the clear indication that the PDP process will proceed whatever the outcome of the review.

It also raises the precise terms of reference given to Mr Auton. I urgently request a copy, and a copy of any supporting documents (other than the PDP, which I have).

If the independent reviewer is undertaking a review in the knowledge only the formal hearings are delayed and not the pre-hearing meetings, this puts him in an invidious position of knowing that ratepayers will be spending time on preparation for those pre-hearing meetings that will be entirely wasted were he to decide that the PDP should be withdrawn.

The letter also refers to a revised timeline being sent shortly. This appears premature if the independent reviewer is genuinely considering withdrawal. It would also appear to be a waste of ratepayer’s money in having staff do this work if the PDP is going to be withdrawn.

Re Science Panel

With regard to the Science Panel hearings set down for December, can you confirm that these will be deferred until the outcome of the PDP review is completed. Again, for this to proceed would be a further waste of ratepayer rates, as well as individual submitters time and money in engaging experts, if the whole exercise proves to be nugatory.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Yours faithfully,

C B Ruthe