

IN THE MATTER of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Queenstown Lakes
Proposed District Plan

AND

IN THE MATTER of Hearing Stream 3: Historic
Heritage & Protected Trees

MINUTE REGARDING HEARING SUBMISSION 39

G RITCHIE

1. Mr Ritchie lodged submission #39 in relation to a tree listed for protection in the PDP. The tree in question is in Wanaka, and we understand Mr Ritchie to be based in Wanaka.
2. When he received the notice of hearing, Mr Ritchie filled in the online form requesting a hearing time (10 minutes). On the form he listed two hearing times in Wanaka as his first two preferences, and for the third preference listed "Wednesday 29 June – QUEENSTOWN – 2pm – 5pm". Mr Ritchie was the only submitter to request hearing time in Wanaka.
3. In preparing the hearing schedule, taking account of the various requests for hearing time, the administrative staff allocated 12:50 on Wednesday 29 June in Queenstown as the most suitable time available for Mr Ritchie. In selecting this time, the staff sent an email to Mr Ritchie on 15 June advising him of several time options, all of which were in Queenstown. Unfortunately, while the email said it had Mr Ritchie set down to be heard in Queenstown due to logistics, it did not make it clear that he was the only submitter who sought to be heard in Wanaka.
4. Yesterday Mr Ritchie has emailed the Council and expressed disappointment that he had to travel to Queenstown to be heard. He was contacted by our administration staff who explained that he was the only submitter to be heard in Wanaka and the expected cost to the Council of holding a hearing in Wanaka for the 10 minutes required to hear him.
5. I have considered whether the timetable should be adjusted so as to have the Hearing Panel sit in Wanaka on Thursday 30 June to hear Mr Ritchie, noting that his first preference for a hearing time was between 1pm and 5pm on that day. I have had the administration staff provide an estimate of cost to the Council of doing

that. This estimate amounted to a little over \$1,700 based on holding the hearing in the committee room at the Ardmore Street Council office on Thursday morning.

6. I accept that hearing Mr Ritchie in Queenstown will involve a level of inconvenience for him, with a minimum of 2 hours for him to travel back and forward. However, Mr Ritchie did indicate when he sought a hearing time that he was prepared to travel to Queenstown to be heard, albeit only as his third preference.
7. On balance I consider the cost to the Council outweighs the inconvenience to Mr Ritchie, given that he originally sought a hearing in Queenstown as his third option. However, with the assistance of our administration staff I have re-arranged the hearing timetable on Wednesday 29 June so that Mr Ritchie can be accommodated at 4:20pm, which is within the band of his third option. If that time does not suit him, the following three times in Queenstown are also available:
 - Monday 27 June at 4:20pm;
 - Tuesday 28 June at 10:30am; and
 - Tuesday 28 June at 4:20pm.
8. If Mr Ritchie prefers one of those times he can contact the administrative staff at dp.hearings@qldc.govt.nz or 03 441 0499. Otherwise, we will hear him in Queenstown at 4:20pm on 29 June 2016.

23 June 2016



Denis Nugent
Hearing Panel Chair