

SPECIALIST AREAS

- ❑ *Registered Hearing Commissioner with Chairing endorsement.*
- ❑ *Policy Statement, Plan and consent hearings.*
- ❑ *All aspects of water management, particularly surface water and discharges*
- ❑ *Freshwater ecology*
- ❑ *Project Management*
- ❑ *Policy and Strategic Analysis*
- ❑ *Plan Preparation and Review*
- ❑ *Statutory Approvals under the RMA, including resource consent applications*
- ❑ *Environmental Investigation and Reporting*
- ❑ *Emergency Management Planning*
- ❑ *Chairing and facilitating meetings*

EDUCATION

- ❑ *University of Canterbury: Doctorate of Philosophy in Zoology, specialising in freshwater biology, 1980.*
- ❑ *University of Canterbury: Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Zoology 1976.*

INTRODUCTION

Dr Brent Cowie has 35 years experience in environmental management, consultancy, and senior management in local government. His specialist areas include: acting as a hearing commissioner, chairing hearing committees and decision writing, preparation of resource consent applications and evidence for hearings, water resource management, investigation and reporting of environmental and corporate issues and project management. Brent operates his own company, Cowie Resource Management Limited.

EXPERIENCE

INTERNATIONAL ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

Part of an OECD team carrying out an environmental performance review of Australia in 1997. As one of six expert reviewers, drafted the chapter on land, water and coastal management for Australia as a whole, and contributed to preparing the wider review and its recommendations. Took part as the NZ representative in the reporting back in Paris.

POLICY AND PLAN HEARINGS

- One of four independent commissioners hearing submissions on a proposed plan change to improve water quality in Lake Rotorua (2017).
- One of three independent commissioners hearing and deciding submissions on Northland's proposed Regional Policy Statement (2013). Hearing finished in early July and all decisions were finalised by late August for council ratification in September.
- Appointed by Canterbury Regional Council as the sole independent Hearing Commissioner for Chapters 4-8 of the Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan (2006-2010). Responsible for writing all (~6,000) decisions and rewriting the plan.

NATIONAL WATER CONSERVATION ORDER HEARINGS

- Chaired the Special Tribunal hearing a water conservation order application for the Oreti River in Southland (2008/09). Primarily wrote the decision.
- Member of a Special Tribunal appointed to hear an application to vary the National Water Conservation Order for Lake Ellesmere (2011). Primarily wrote the decision.

RESOURCE CONSENT HEARINGS

AFFILIATIONS

- *Member, Resource Management Law Association (NZ)*

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- *Self Employed Resource Management Consultant (July 2006 on)*
- *Environmental Management Services Ltd : Consultant (July 2001 to June 2006)*
- *Manawatu Wanganui Regional Council, Palmerston North. Group Manager Resources (September 1989 to June 2001).*
- *Ministry for the Environment, Wellington. Senior Policy Analyst. (March 1988 to July 1989).*
- *Ministry of Works and Development, Wellington. Scientist and later Group Leader, (June 1986 to March 1988).*
- *North Canterbury Catchment Board, Christchurch. Contract Fisheries and Wildlife Consultant (March 1982 to May 1986).*
- *Cawthron Institute, Nelson. Contract Biologist. (December 1981 to March 1984).*
- *Canterbury Museum. Researcher.*

MfE hearing commissioner training completed in March 2005 with chair endorsement. Updated in May 2006; recertification in June 2008 and June 2013. Involved in over 50 consent hearings, often as chair, including applications to:

- Discharge dairy factory effluent to land or coastal water at Clandeboye, Darfield (both Fonterra), Dunsandel (Synlait) and Hokitika (Westland Milk).
- Discharges to land of dairy effluent from three farms in the Kakanui catchment.
- Discharge partly treated wastewater at Rangiora, Kaikoura, Eketahuna and Pahiatua.
- Discharge contaminants to air from Ravensdown Fertiliser works near Napier and in Christchurch, and from a new composting plant in Christchurch.
- Discharge spoil to coastal waters from dredging of Port Otago.
- Develop HEP schemes on the Arnold River (TrustPower), and two small schemes in the Tasman District.
- Substantially extend a regional landfill at Bonny Glen near Marton.
- Take water in the MacKenzie Basin and from the Rangitata and Waimakariri Rivers for irrigation, from the Waipara River for a vineyard, and from the Ohau River for domestic water supply to Levin.
- Develop or much extend gold mining at Roxborough and MacRae's Flat.
- Activities associated with openings of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and Lake Forsyth/Wairewa to the sea.
- Numerous stormwater discharges (often associated with subdivision) including at Tinwald, Lincoln, Darfield, Governors Bay, Rolleston, Pegasus and Kaikoura.

MANAGEMENT & REVIEW

- MfE (2016) One of two consultants contracted to assist with a nationwide review of implementation of the NPS for freshwater.
- Meridian Energy (2016). Undertook a review of the likelihood of flows being required down presently dry lake outlets, and what those flows could be.
- Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company (2015). Reported on consenting issues associated with Ruataniwha Water Supply Scheme for potential investors.
- NIWA, MPI and Dairy NZ (2013). Reviewed and redrafted a chapter on the effects of climate change on water resources and agriculture.

(December 1980 to March 1982).

- *University of the South Pacific, Suva. Post Doctoral Fellow. (May to November 1980).*

OTHER SKILLS

- *Competent user of IT, particularly MS Office.*
- *Competent touch typist.*

- MfE (2009/10). One of two consultants who reviewed recent consents processing by the Far North DC.
- HBRC (2009). Reviewed the council's recent consent processing performance at both a staff and political level.
- MfE (2009). Reviewed the hearing and decision making processes on consent applications by TrustPower for a HEP scheme on the Wairau River.
- MfE (2006). Jointly prepared a s32 RMA report on a proposed NES for drinking water supplies.
- MfE (2005). Principal contractor preparing a Monitoring and Reporting Strategy on Dairying and Clean Streams Accord.
- MfE (2005). Prepared a review of water resource management in NZ for a visit by the OECD.
- MfE (2004-06). Principal consultant to a review of how Government could better mitigate flood risks in NZ. Undertook review of current practise, and of relevant work by government agencies. Ongoing involvement after Cabinet approval in April 2005, including preparing of briefs and reviewing reports.
- HBRC (2004). Reviewed the most appropriate structures for the response to a major emergency in the region. Canvassed the views of five local authorities; recommended solutions for improving and integrating their emergency response.
- Ministry of Research Science & Technology (2004). Undertook comprehensive surveys of the views of local government, central government agencies and industries that rely heavily on science on the (then) existing science system. This focussed on their input as end users, their influence on decisions on what work gets done, and information transfer.
- ARC (2003). Carried out a management review of the coastal section of the council.
- Rangitikei DC (2003). Contributed to the first SoE report for the District.
- MfE (2002). Undertook a review looking at any need for and means of achieving a national water strategy for NZ.
- ARC (2001). Prepared the Section 32 report for the proposed Air, Land and Water Plan.
- Manawatu Wanganui RC (1989 to 2001). Group Manager Resources responsible for 35-55 staff dealing with all aspects of resource management, emergency management, iwi liaison, transport policy and public transport. Responsible for an annual budget of approximately \$5 million.
- MWRC (1989 to 2001). Project management, direction setting, and peer review of Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans.
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Legislation

(1998 to 2001). Chaired Regional Coordination and Advisory Group comprising representatives of local authorities and emergency service managed political and administrative processes of agreeing to form an EMG; oversight of the strategic component of the region's CDEMG Plan.

- East Coast Project Review (1987). Led an inter-departmental team reviewing the environmental and economic justification for ongoing government support for forestry in the Gisborne District. Led the officials group that guided Government policy for ongoing support for forestry in the District.

MEDIATION AND NEGOTIATION

- MWRC (2003). Negotiated agreement on seven consent applications for a meatworks at Oringi with applicant and submitters.
- Tongariro Power Development Consultative Group (1992 - 2000). Foundation member of the group. Involved in determining and reviewing research needs, and negotiations on proposed mitigation measures.
- MWRC (1994 – 1996). Successfully negotiated consent orders with up to eight appellants on the Regional Policy Statement and a Regional Plan.

ADVICE TO HEARING COMMITTEES

- MWRC (1991-1998). Principal adviser to Hearing Committees hearing and deciding submissions on the Regional Policy Statement and three Regional Plans.
- MWD and MfE (1987-1989). Principal adviser to committees deciding applications for National Water Conservation Orders for the Manganuiateao, Grey and Mohaka Rivers. Drafted the decisions and the orders.

AEE'S AND PLAN HEARINGS

- Various Chicken Farmers in Canterbury (2014 -16). Prepared eight applications and associated AEE's to DC's and ECan for the construction of new chicken sheds and/or new large chicken farms. Project manager for the two that went to hearings.
- Ngai Tahu Farming (2014-2016). Project Manager of investigations for a proposed new water storage dam in the Hurunui catchment.
- Meridian Energy (2012). Prepared a review of the changes in the proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan from the existing regulatory

framework and how they may affect the company.

- Ngai Tahu Property (2012 & 2013). Gave evidence on the proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan, with a focus on water quality. Also gave evidence on the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan as part of the Ngai Tahu case.
- Ngai Tahu Property (2012-2014). Prepared five applications associated with taking surface water and using land for irrigation and dairy conversion in Balmoral Forest. Managed full hearing process, including preparing witness briefs, co-ordinating and reviewing all evidence (eight witnesses), and provision of planning evidence.
- Meridian Energy (2012). Co-ordinated all the company's evidence (17 briefs) on the proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan.
- Meridian Energy (2011-12). Principal contractor reviewing technical reports and preparing AEE's for the principal consents for proposed new hydro power schemes on each of the Waiau River and Hurunui rivers in North Canterbury.
- Ngai Tahu Property Limited (2011). Lodged and had granted resource consent applications for the conversion of about 7,000ha at Balmoral Forest, North Canterbury to agriculture.
- Shell Todd Oil Services (2001 – 2004). Evaluated preferred option for constructing long sections of pipe onshore in Manawatu to bring gas onshore in Taranaki. Prepared AEE's for consent applications to District and Regional Councils.

TIKANGA MAORI

- Manawatu Wanganui RC (1993 - 2001). Managed the Council's Iwi Relationships Manager. Involved in detailed negotiations with Iwi representatives on the relationship between Council and Iwi. Took part in many marae visits, very comfortable on marae.