

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**RESOURCE CONSENT
HEARINGS****RULES OF PROCEDURE**

1. The hearing will be open to the public and the news media.
2. **Protection of Sensitive Information**

The Hearing Committee may of its own motion or on application of any party to the hearing make an order that the whole or part of the proceedings shall be held with the public excluded or to prohibit or restrict the disclosure of information to be submitted in the course of the hearing where it is satisfied that an order is necessary

 - (a) to avoid serious offence to tikanga Maori or to avoid the disclosure of the location of waahi tapu or
 - (b) to avoid the disclosure of a trade secret or unreasonable prejudice to the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or is the subject of that information if the importance of avoiding such offence, disclosure or prejudice outweighs the public interest in making that information available.
3. **Use of Maori Language**

Any party or witness may elect to speak Maori or to present evidence written in Maori. Notice of intention to present evidence in Maori shall be given not later than 8 working days prior to the hearing to enable arrangements to be made for the attendance of a certified interpreter.
4. **Cellular phones**

Cellular phones shall not be used or switched on during the conduct of the hearing.
5. **Cross Examination**

Cross examination of witnesses is not permitted. Only the Chairperson/Commissioner, or other members of the Hearing Committee may question any party or witnesses and any questions of other parties shall be directed through the Chairperson.
6. **Evidence**

Parties shall have available copies of written evidence for exchange with other parties and shall provide sufficient copies of the written evidence for the exclusive use of the members of the Hearing Panel and news media.
7. **Right of reply**

The Hearing Committee Chairperson/Commissioner may at his or her discretion, on application being made, allow the applicant's right of reply to be submitted in writing, and shall determine the number of working days not exceeding five in any case by which the right of reply shall be submitted.

Where an application for the applicant's right of reply to be submitted in writing is allowed, a copy of that reply shall be circulated to all submitters who requested to be heard and the hearing shall be reconvened for the presentation of the applicant's right of reply unless all parties agree that the hearing does not need to be reconvened.