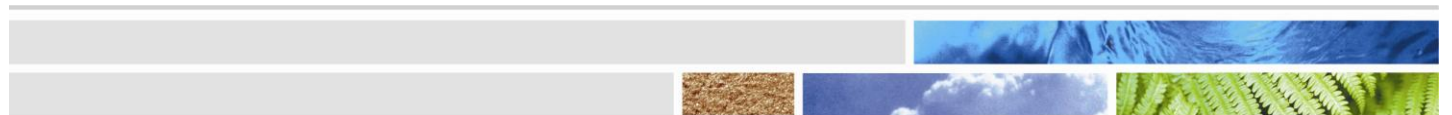




Environmental
Protection Authority
Te Mana Rauhi Taiao

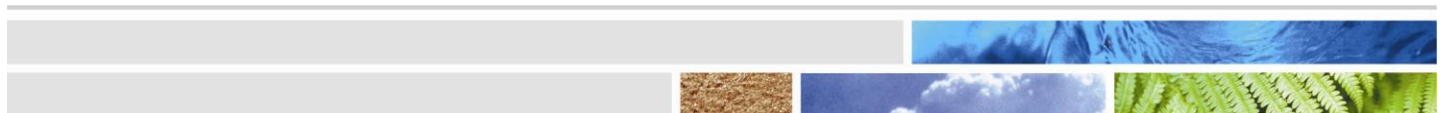
The Environmental Protection Authority

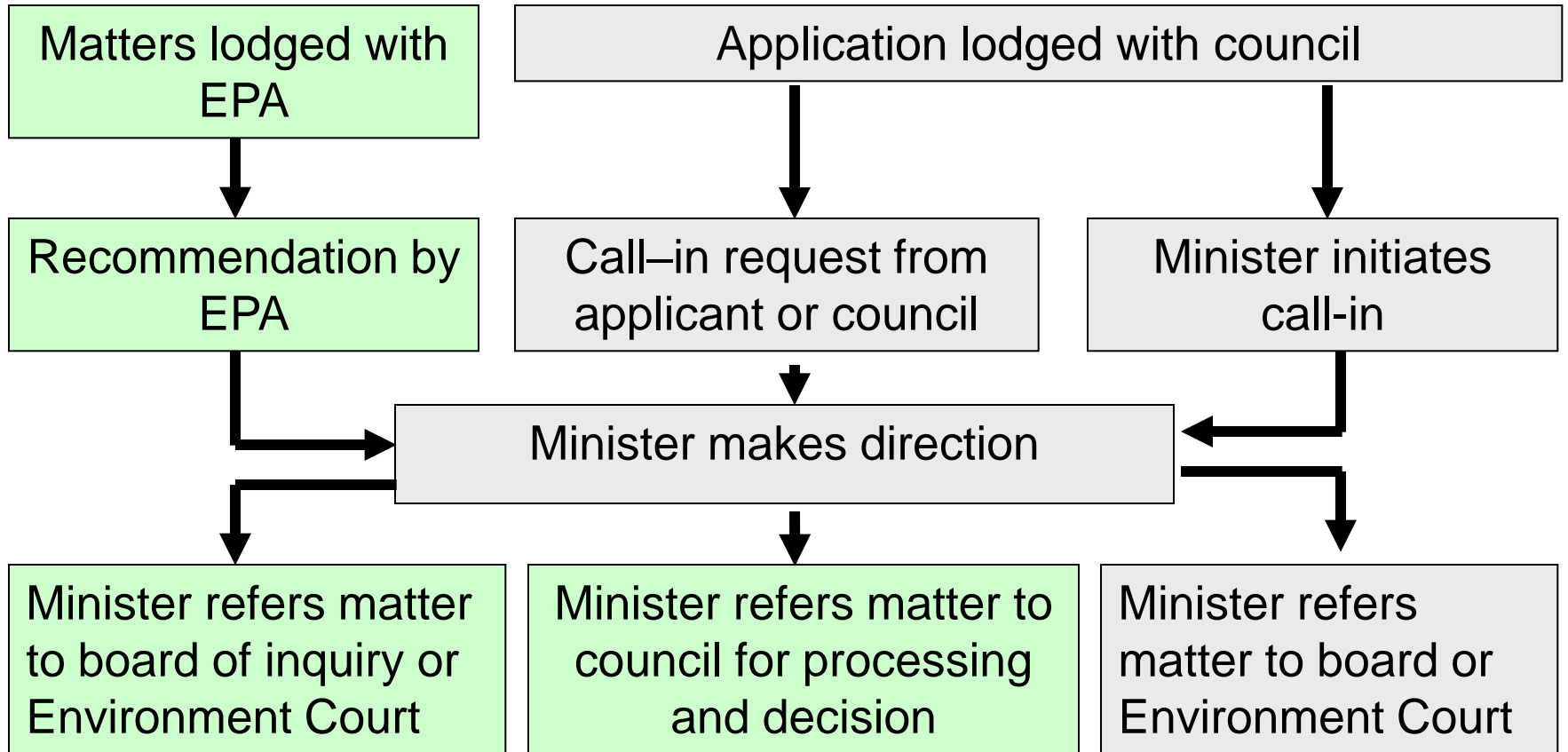




The EPA: Who are we?

- Dr Paul Reynolds, Secretary for the Environment
- Nationally Significant Proposals Directorate
 - Members in Auckland, Wellington & Christchurch
 - Head Office - Environment House, 23 Kate Sheppard Place, Wellington
 - Currently 30 full-time staff (some additional on contract) with 3 located in Auckland and 2 in Christchurch







EPA Functions

The following matters can come to the EPA

- Applications for resource consent
- Requests for a regional plan (not coastal)
- Request for a plan change
- Variations to resource consent
- NOR for new or change to existing designation
- NOR for a heritage order





Eligibility for EPA Process

- Applications must be in whole or part of a proposal of national significance
- Minister can consider any other relevant factor over and above the 10 in the RMA
- Threshold thus far is relatively low

Lesson

- Applicants often discount the process because they don't believe they will meet the criteria – talk to us





EPA Pre-lodgement Emphasis

Innovation

- Make s88/92 checks a formality
- Continuity of EPA project team
- EPA manages the relationship between your proposal and local authorities – ensures clear separation of roles and responsibilities

Lessons

- Scope of pre-lodgement reviews – gap analysis
- Minister – has 5 days for EPA recommendation





9 Month Process

- Effectively 7 months from close of submissions to draft report and decision

Lessons

- Have a dedicated team – flexible and adaptive
- Engage anywhere, anytime, anyhow
- Submitters feel very time poor
- Traditional barriers breakdown





It's not all about the “Application”

Lessons

- Tell your stakeholders early about the EPA
- Set up your infrastructure around the application – website, 0800 numbers, methods of getting information to parties, your team and key contacts

Innovation

- Weekly conference calls
- Lesson's learnt and feedback loops





Notification

Lessons

- Nationally significant = national notification but no “affected parties”
- Black and white is best
- Think about the reader

Innovation

- Friend of the Submitter/Public Meetings
- Early timetabling of process in public notice
- Electronic submissions/service of evidence
- Communication channels

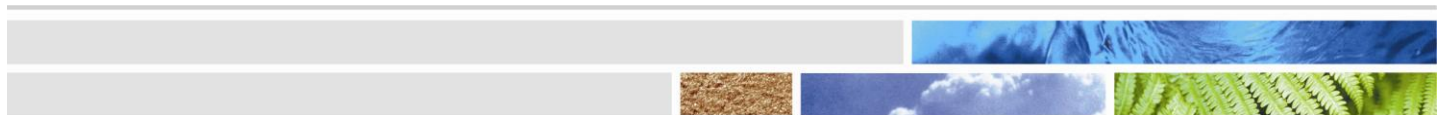




Hearings

Innovation

- Evidence as read
- Evidence – technical reports with brief
- No cross examination required – no appearance required
- Board questions in writing
- Limited timeframes for submissions/cross-examination
- Marae sittings





Hearings

Lessons

- Kitset bookcases are not child's play
- Venues will look to capitalise – “Environmental Friendly Lunches”
- Media requests need to be specific and focused and may be declined
- Submitters need support – they can get confused about what is going on





Challenges – We have a Plan!

- Procurement – government procurement rules v 9 month timeframe
- Different approaches between judiciary
- Conflicts of interest
- Lack of understanding of the EPA





Where to Next - EPA Phase II

Cabinet decision – EPA to be a Crown Entity

Phase II combines

- ✓ Current EPA functions
- ✓ ERMA functions
- ✓ MED ETS registry functions
- ✓ Potential EEZ legislation
- ✓ Other legislative functions





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0800 CALL EPA

