
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for the Stella Passage Development Project
[FTAA-2512-1163]

3 March 2026

[1] Port of Tauranga Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 22 January 2026. The application relates to the extension of the Sulphur Point and Mount Maunganui wharves at the Port of Tauranga, with activities including dredging, reclamation, development of new structures in the coastal marine area, and installation and use of four new cranes on the extended wharves to support port operations.

[2] The application seeks approvals including:

- (a) Resource consents under section 42(4)(a); and
- (b) A wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h).

[3] Pursuant to section 51 of the Act, the panel convener directs the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to obtain the following reports:

From the Director-General of the Department of Conservation (DOC):

- (a) a report under clause 3 of Schedule 7 for the wildlife approval (s42(4)(h)).

Advice Requested

[4] The panel convener also directs the EPA to obtain advice from the Department of Conservation on the following:

- (a) How the weighting of matters set out in the relevant schedules should be approached, having regard to applicable statutory provisions and relevant senior court decisions (s51(1)).

[5] If the Department of Conservation does not agree with, or wishes to amplify, the expert and planning assessments lodged in support of the application, it must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d)).

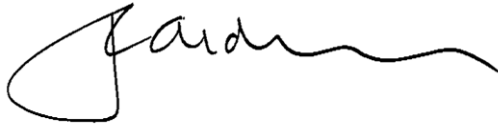
[6] The Department of Conservation may confirm and append advice, including legal advice, previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project and does not need to provide an assessment if it concurs with the applicant's assessments.

[7] The Department of Conservation is to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

Timing

[8] Reports and advice must be provided to the EPA **within 10 working days after the panel invites comments on the application**, in accordance with section 51(4) of the Act. Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).

[9] It would assist the panel convener if the Department of Conservation is able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference, scheduled for the 5th March 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Caldwell', with a large loop at the start and a wavy line at the end.

Jennifer Caldwell

Panel convener for the purposes of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024