
MINUTE 1 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Project overview conference
Taranaki VTM Project [FTAA-
2504-1048]

(25 August 2025)

[1] On 12 August 2025, the Expert Panel was appointed by the Panel Convener, with the set-up and commencement date confirmed as 25 August 2025 for the Taranaki VTM Project.

[2] The Panel now has **10 working days** after the panel is set up to invite comments on the application from those parties identified under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. This invitation must be issued by **Monday, 8 September 2025**.

[3] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the time and details for an in-person briefing from the Applicant.

[4] The briefing will be held on **Tuesday, 2 September 2025**, commencing at **10:00am** in **Auckland**. A full day has been set aside for this overview conference.

[5] The purpose of the briefing is to familiarise the Expert Panel with:

- (a) the content of the application for approvals;
- (b) the content and structure of proposed conditions, including management plans and strategic plan, and drafting style;
- (c) key points of evidence (technical reports, assessments, and other supporting information);
- (d) proposed site visit details;
- (e) relevant legal tests and legal issues in contention; and
- (f) other relevant matters.

[6] During the briefing:

- (a) the Applicant will present a high-level overview of the application;
- (b) the Expert Panel will have the opportunity to ask questions about the application, noting that Panel members will have familiarised themselves with the documents by the time of the briefing; and
- (c) participants may raise any matters they wish to bring to the Panel's attention.

[7] The Expert Panel requests that the Applicant make available the appropriate experts who can assist in the Panel's understanding of the application during the briefing.

[8] Participants should note that, while the Expert Panel will be familiar with the application documents, they will not have had the opportunity to consider matters in detail. There will be further opportunities in the process for detailed consideration.

[9] To facilitate the overview referred to in paragraph 4(a), the Applicant is requested to provide a short PowerPoint presentation to the EPA's Application Lead, Elliott Dennett, by **5:00pm on Friday, 29 August 2025**, and to speak to it during the briefing.

[10] The Panel does not consider it necessary to ask potential commenters to attend the briefing. In the interests of transparency, however, and to provide potential commenters with the same information as that provided to the panel, the briefing will be recorded and may be transcribed. The resulting material will be made available on the Fast-track website following the conference.

[11] Further details for the briefing session will be provided by Elliott Dennett, who can be contacted at: info@fasttrack.govt.nz.



Hon. Kit Toogood KC
Expert Panel Chair