
RESPONSE BY THE WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL TO MINUTE 1 OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Preparation for conference

**[Ashbourne] [FTAA-2507-1087]
(12 September 2025)**

- [1] The Waikato Regional Council (WRC) is in receipt of Minute 1 from the Panel Convener for the Ashbourne Fast Track process.
- [2] This memo addresses the relevant Schedule 1 and 2 matters outlined within Minute 1.

Schedule 1

Approvals

- [3] The Applicant is seeking authorisations for a suite of activities associated with the three developments. The suite of activities included within this Fast Track application are:
- a) Earthworks and cleanfilling
 - b) Bore drilling
 - c) Groundwater takes
 - d) Stormwater diversion and discharge
 - e) Wastewater discharge
- [4] WRC understands that the application consists of three discrete projects: the Residential Subdivision and Greenway, the Retirement Village and the Solar Farms. It is not clear that all activities for each discrete project have been applied for. For example, it appears that the Applicant has not applied for authorisations for the engineered stormwater outlet to the Waitoa Stream. The Applicant will need to ensure all activities for each project have been applied for, because by not including all necessary consents within this Fast Track application, then the Applicant may need to apply for further consents via the Resource Management Act process subsequent to this Fast Track process.

Complexity

- [5] WRC does not consider that the application is particularly complex other than for the matter raised above relating to ensuring all necessary consents have been applied for associated with each discrete project.

Issues

- [6] The issues from this application relevant to WRC relate to:

- a) Earthworks and clean filling activities
- b) The proposed sources of water for the residential subdivision and retirement village developments,
- c) Wastewater discharges from the retirement village (noting that the wastewater discharge from the subdivision is to be connected to the Matamata municipal system),
- d) Dewatering activities for the developments,
- e) The damming, diversion and discharge of stormwater from each discrete development and the wider catchment,
- f) The location, construction and use of the stormwater outlet into the Waitoa Stream; and
- g) Proposed conditions of consent.

Panel Membership

- [8] WRC considers that the process would benefit from a panel consisting of 3 experts in planning, cultural matters, and including an independent chair.

Tikanga

- [9] WRC has no comment on this matter.

Procedural Requirements

- [10] There are no procedural matters that WRC is aware of.

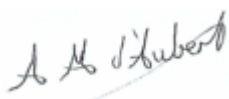
Schedule 2

Timeframe for comments

- [11] WRC is of the view that an extended timeframe for comments from relevant parties does not appear to be necessary.

Timeframe for Decision Making

- [12] WRC is of the view that an extended timeframe for Decision Making does not appear to be necessary.



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