
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for the Downtown Carpark Site Development

[FTAA-2512- 1158]

17 February 2026

[1] Precinct Properties New Zealand Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 12 January 2026. The application relates to the Downtown Carpark Site Development in Auckland.

[2] The application seeks approvals including an archaeological authority under section 42(4)(i);

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

- (a) From Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council (HNZPT and MHC) - a report under clause 3 of Schedule 8 for the archaeological authority (s42(4)(i)).

Advice Requested

[4] The panel convener also directs the EPA to obtain advice HNZPT and the MHC 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)).
- (b) If HNZPT / MHC agrees or disagrees with, or wishes to amplify, the expert

FTAA-2512- 1158 - Request for Section 51 report for the Downtown Carpark Site Development

and planning assessments lodged in support of the application, they must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d)).

- (c) NZHPT / MHC may confirm and append advice, including legal advice, previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project and do not need to provide an assessment if they concur with the applicant's assessments.
- (d) NZHPT / MHC are to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

Timing

[5] 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.

[6] Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).

Convener conference

[7] Finally, it would assist the panel convener if the NZHPT / MHC are able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference, which will take place in early March.

[8] A separate minute for this will be issued in due course.



Helen Atkins

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

FTAA-2512- 1158 - Request for Section 51 report for the Downtown Carpark
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