



06 March 2026

The Expert Panel – Fast-track Approvals Act application  
Environmental Protection Authority  
Waterloo Quay  
Wellington

FTAA-2510-1118

To the Expert Panel

Thank you for the invitation to comment on Wellington International Airport Limited's Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) substantive application, the Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal project (FTAA-2510-1118). I am responding in my capacity as Acting Minister for Infrastructure. This application was transferred to me by the Minister for Infrastructure to avoid any perception of conflicts of interest.

The Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal project is to replace and upgrade the existing seawall at the southern end of the runway at Wellington Airport and carry out activities to support reconstruction, including a new or upgraded supply wharf and construction yards. It involves multiple working sites, including areas of the Coastal Marine Area. The application is for resource consents, concessions, wildlife and archaeological approvals.

The Southern Seawall protects the Airport's runway and flight operations from the Southern Ocean. The Wellington International Airport Limited's Fast-track application notes that the Southern Seawall is now nearing the end of its design life and requires complete reconstruction and upgrade to ensure ongoing protection of the Airport – a nationally and regionally significant piece of infrastructure.

Infrastructure is important for growth and prosperity. Our view is our planning system has not been enabling of growth, hence the establishment of the FTAA.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my broad support for projects which deliver positive outcomes for New Zealand, including the Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal project. Please take this letter of support as a reflection of the Government's economic growth and infrastructure priorities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis'.

Hon Nicola Willis  
**Acting Minister for Infrastructure**