

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE #20 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Potential Conditions Workshop

Late comment received

Haldon Solar [FTAA-2508-1097]

20 July 2026

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to alert parties who have provided comments on the draft conditions for the Haldon Solar application to the possibility of a conditions workshop to address any outstanding issues that require resolution, so that the Panel is in a better position to issue a considered and robust decision and conditions.

[2] In addition, a further comment has been raised in an 'addendum' received from the Department of Conservation on 16 July 2026.

Background

[3] On 26 June 2026, the Panel issued Minute 19, inviting comments on the draft conditions prepared by the Panel for the Haldon Solar Farm. Those comments were received on 13 July 2026.

[4] The Panel notes that the Applicant, pursuant to s70(4), had a further five working days to respond to those comments, with that response due on 20 July 2026.

[5] The Panel has reviewed the comments received and notes a number of concerns raised in those comments, questions as to the legality of certain conditions, and recommended changes to a number of conditions that have contradictions between the various comments received.

Workshop

[6] Following receipt of the Applicant's response to these comments, the Panel has only a short timeframe within which to finalise its decision and the conditions. Given the diversity of comments received, the Panel considers that a workshop may be necessary to better understand and consider any outstanding issues. The purpose of this workshop is not to revisit the actual decision but to discuss specific issues with the conditions, their legality, and the points made.

[7] Therefore:

(a) The Panel gives notice of a conditions workshop, to commence at **9am on Tuesday 28 July 2026**.

(b) A telephone conference (via Teams) will be held at **noon Wednesday 22 July 2026** to address format, topics and timing for the workshop and any subsequent steps. All parties who intend to be present for the workshop should attend.

(c) The Panel will consider the Applicant's response, any legal submissions, and any further revisions of conditions to be received on 20 July 2026. Based on that review, the Panel will issue a further Minute by **9am on Thursday 23 July 2026**, to confirm whether the workshop is proceeding and, if so, the specific conditions and issues on which the Panel has residual questions to be addressed at the workshop.

(d) The Applicant, the Department of Conservation, the Councils, Mana whenua, Forest and Bird, and the Environmental Defence Society are invited to have a representative who can speak to any identified issues at both the proposed workshop and the telephone conference.

(e) The proposed workshop will be held online, via Teams, and attendance is required from the Applicant, and requested, but not required, for other parties.

Additional Comment from the Department of Conservation

[8] The deadline for comments from invited parties was 13 July 2026. While the

addendum comment received from the Department of Conservation was well outside this timeframe, the Panel has reviewed the additional matter and noted that it is based on late-received technical advice. The Panel has decided to accept this comment.

[9] The Panel gives the Applicant until **5pm on Thursday 23 July 2026** to respond to this additional matter, should it wish to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Raynor Asher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon Raynor Asher KC
Haldon Solar Panel Chair