
MINUTE 1 OF THE PANEL CONVENER
Request for Section 51 report

Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

9 March 2026

[1] Taharoa Ironsands Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 26 January 2026. The application relates to the continuation of existing mineral sand extraction, including land preparation works, constructing a water supply reservoir, extracting ironsand material using dry and wet-mining techniques, processing extracted material, and transporting raw and processed material.

[2] The application seeks approvals including:

- (a) a wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h);
- (b) 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:

From the Director-General of the Department of Conservation (DOC):

- (a) a report under clause 3 of Schedule 7 for the wildlife approval (s42(4)(h));

From Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council (HNZPT and

MHC):

- (a) 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 from the the Department of Conservation and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council on 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)).

[5] If DoC and HNZPT and MHC do not agree with, or wish to amplify, the expert 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)).

[6] DoC and HNZPT and 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.

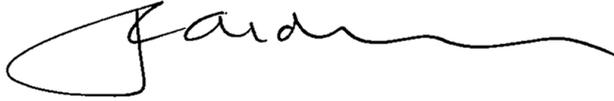
[7] DoC and HNZPT and MHC are to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

Timing

[8] 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.

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

[10] Finally, it would assist the panel convener if DoC and HNZPT and MHC are able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference, tentatively scheduled for the week commencing 16 March 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Caldwell', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Caldwell

Associate Panel Convener for the purposes of the Fast-track Approvals Act
2024