Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 6A OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Earthworks expert conference
Southland Wind Farm [FTAA-2508-1095]

10 February 2026

[1]   We thank the contributors to the "Joint Statement Of Experts: Earthworks" dated 11 February 2026 for their helpful advice. We have a follow-up query.

[2]   It appears to us that under the amendments agreed in the JWS there would be three water quality standards applying to the discharges from the earthworks sediment control facilities:

    a) Condition CM5(g) relating to clarity in the discharge being no less than 100mm as measured by secchi disc, clarity tube or equivalent;

    b) Condition CM7A(a) relating to receiving environment fine sediment cover; and

    c) Condition CM7A(b) relating to no more than a 20% change in clarity or colour at the edge of the reasonable mixing zone in the receiving environment, relative to the clarity or colour upstream of the discharge point.

[3]   The provisional view of the Panel is that:

    a) Conditions CM5(g) and CM7A(a) would not apply for 48 hours following a 2-year ARI event or greater;

    b) Condition CM7A(b) would apply at all times because it relates to a

relative change in receiving water colour and clarity and so it arguably should be complied with even if the upstream receiving water is turbid as a result of storm induced runoff.

[4]   It would be appreciated if the JWS contributors could address the Panel's preliminary view on these conditions when they finalise the JWS. In that regard we would appreciate the JWS being finalised at the contributor's earliest convenience, but no later than Monday 16 February 2026.

[5]   Any queries regarding this Minute should be directed to Keely Paler, who can be contacted at: info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Rob van Voorthuysen

On behalf of Ian Gordon
Expert Panel Chair of the Southland Wind Farm Panel.