
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for the State Highway 1 North Canterbury-
Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus)
[FTAA-2512- 1157]

17 February 2026

[1] The New Zealand Transport Agency lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 19 December 2025. The application relates to extending the State Highway 1 Christchurch Northern Corridor between Belfast and Pegasus.

[2] The application seeks approvals including:

- (a) a wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h);
- (b) an archaeological authority under section 42(4)(i);
- (c) a complex freshwater fisheries approval under section 42(4)(j);

[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));
- (b) a report under clause 4 of Schedule 9 for the complex freshwater fisheries approvals (s42(4)(j)); and,

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 DOC, HNZPT and 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 DOC, HNZPT and MHC agrees or disagrees with, or wishes 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)).
- (c) DOC, 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.
- (d) DOC, HNZPT and 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 DOC, HNZPT and MHC are able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference, tentatively scheduled for early March.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The letter "J" is large and stylized, with a long vertical stroke and a curved bottom. The word "Jane" is written in a cursive, lowercase font.

Jane Borthwick

Panel convener for the purpose9s of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024