
MINUTE 5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Further parties invited to
comment

Taranaki VTM Project
[FTAA-2504-1048]

(24 September 2025)

[1] This minute records the Panel's decision regarding the request of additional parties to receive invitations to comment.

Additional Parties Invited to Comment

[2] On 8 September 2025, the Panel issued invitations to comment under s 53 of the Act.

[3] Following this, the Panel received additional requests from parties seeking to be included in the invitation to comment.

[4] One request, dated 10 September 2025, was received from Mr Jamie Newell on behalf of several fishing clubs based along the southern coastline of the Whanganui-Manawatu region. That request was referred to in Minute 4 issued by the Panel on 19 September 2025, in conjunction with another request by Mr Newell in his capacity as owner/director of a marine services business.¹ An administrative oversight, however, meant that the Panel did not consider the request on behalf of the fishing clubs.

[5] Mr Newell has written again asking the Panel to consider his request on behalf of the Wanganui Manawatu Sea Fishing Club, of which he is the Commodore, and the following clubs and organisations listed in his first letter:

- Coastguard Whanganui
- Tangimoana Boating Club
- Manawatu Marine Boating Club
- Fielding Surfcasting Club

- Waitōtara Pātea Fishing Club
- St Johns Fishing Adjunct
- Castlecliff Club Fishing Adjunct
- Whanganui Surf Lifesaving Club
- Progress Castlecliff .

[6] Among the grounds for inclusion on the list of invitees for comment, Mr Newell asserts that:

- members of his club (and, by inference, the others listed) regularly fish the seabed mining area and areas north and southeast of the mining area;
- recreational fishing along the coastline has increased in popularity since the impact assessments conducted by the applicant were completed;
- engagement from the applicant with his club and the recreational fishing community south of Pātea has been non-existent.

[7] Using its powers under s 53(3) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, the Panel previously invited fishing charterers and similar organisations using the coastline and waters north of Patea to comment on the application.² There is no reason why the organisations listed in Mr Newell's request should not be invited to comment similarly.

[8] Accordingly, we direct that the organisations listed at [5] above be invited under s 53(3) FTAA to comment, on the understanding that Mr Newell's club will observe his undertaking to collaborate with other parties with similar views or concerns to reduce the already heavy administrative burden on the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the Panel. Notice of the invitation to Mr Newell will be deemed to be notice to the clubs listed.

[9] Comments from participants who are invited to comment must be received by the EPA no later than Monday, 6 October 2025.



Hon. Kit Toogood KC
Taranaki VTM Expert Panel chair

² Taranaki VTM Expert Panel Minute 3 dated 8 September 2025