

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE #21 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Conditions Workshop
Haldon Solar [FTAA-2508-1097]

23 July 2026

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the conditions workshop to occur on Tuesday 28 July 2026 (9:00-11:00am) and set out issues to be addressed and procedures for the workshop. The workshop will be a hearing under sections 57 and 59 of the FTAA, but will avoid unnecessary formality. It will be by Microsoft Teams. Representatives are encouraged to occupy single video email addresses.

[2] The background and matters raised in the Panel's Minute 20 remain relevant, but are not repeated here.

[3] The Panel thanks the parties for filing well-considered comments and the Applicant for responding constructively.

Workshop

[4] As set out in Minute 20, the workshop is directed at parties who have already provided comment on ecological matters; namely the Applicant, the Department of Conservation, the Councils, Mana whenua, Forest and Bird, and the Environmental Defence Society.

[5] It is requested that representatives capable of speaking for their organisation are present so that progress can be made in resolving issues with the conditions. Those who are concerned about legal aspects should have their lawyer present. Intended participants should supply an e-mail address to June Cahill, Application Lead, at info@fasttrack.govt.nz so that an invitation to the workshop can be sent.

Workshop topics

[6] The Panel is satisfied that the majority of comments on the conditions have either been addressed in the Applicant's response, or through further consideration by the Panel. Therefore, the list of issues that the Panel wishes to hear from parties about is limited to¹:

- a. Structure and make-up of the Technical Review Panel – how technically oriented should it be?
- b. The process by which the Technical Review Panel can determine that further environmental responses are required, including compensation, and how that is best implemented.
- c. Potential thresholds, triggers and outcomes that the Technical Review Panel could utilise to enable objective, factual assessment of additional environmental response requirements.

Workshop procedure

[7] While the Panel is holding a workshop on a narrow basis, the general requirements of s 58 of the FTAA will be followed. Participants are made aware that the workshop will be recorded and will be published by the EPA.

[8] The Panel expects that the general format of the workshop will be:

- a. Welcome and introduction by the Chair.
- b. The Applicant to set out how and why it has responded to the comments made on the issues set out in [6].
- c. Parties to highlight remaining concerns and solutions related to the Applicant's comments on the issues in [6].

¹ Condition numbers are not listed, as these vary between parties.

- d. The Applicant to provide any further response it wishes to make to the suggestions from the Parties.
- e. Next steps and closing from the Chair.

[9] At any point the Panel may ask questions. The Panel may also take a short adjournment at any time so that it can discuss progress and next steps.

[10] The Panel does not require the Applicant or any party to make general statements about the decision or conditions beyond the issues raised in [6]. The Panel also advises that no party is expected to present pre-prepared material or statements at the workshop.



Hon Raynor Asher KC
Haldon Solar Panel Chair