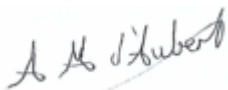

RESPONSE BY THE WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL TO MINUTE 2 OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Preparation for conference - Councils and WRA

[Green Steel] [FTAA-2506-1074]
(27 August 2025)

- [1] The Waikato Regional Council is in receipt of Minute 2 of the Panel Convener for this Green Steel Fast Track process.
- [2] At paragraph [2](c) of the memorandum it states
- “Various process and procedural requirements set out in Joint Management Agreements between the Waikato River Authority and the Regional and District Councils. Examples are given at paragraph 66 of the section 18 report.”*
- [3] At paragraph [3] it states:
- “Clause 5, Schedule 3 to the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 requires both the panel convener and the expert panel appointed to comply with these arrangements as if they were the relevant local authority or alternatively to obtain the agreement of the relevant party under the settlement legislation (in this case the Waikato River Authority) to adopt modified arrangements.”*
- [4] The Panel Convener is advised that the Waikato Regional Council does not hold any Joint Management Agreements with the Waikato River Authority. All current Joint Management Agreements held with the Waikato Regional Council are held with the relevant Iwi Authority. In this instance, the Fast Track application by Green Steel before the EPA is subject to a Joint Management Agreement between the Waikato Regional Council and the Iwi Authority - Waikato-Tainui.
- [5] The Waikato Regional Council requests the Panel Convener to consider the Iwi Authority – Waikato Tainui, be invited to confer on the matters set out in paragraph [4](a) to [4](d) along with the Councils and the Waikato River Authority. The Council considers that commenting on these matters in the absence of this key party to the Joint Management Agreement may not meet the conveners intended purpose of the joint meeting with the Councils and the Waikato River Authority.
- [6] The Waikato Regional Council considers that it would be advantageous to this step in the process for the Councils to confer with Waikato-Tainui with the aim of attaining consensus from the relevant parties that are subject to the Joint Management Agreement.



AnaMaria d'Aubert
Manager – Regional Consents
Waikato Regional Council