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## MINUTE 1 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

### Stella Passage Development FTAA-2512-1163

19 March 2026

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[1] The purpose of this Minute is to advise of the Expert Panel's initial steps.

#### Initial Steps

[2] The initial site visit will occur on Wednesday 25 March.

[3] A preliminary briefing from the Applicant will be held via MS Teams on Thursday 26 March from 9am – 12pm.

[4] The Expert Panel will issue its invitation to comment by Monday 30 March.

#### Briefing Conference

[5] The purpose of the preliminary briefing is for the Applicant to familiarise the Expert Panel with:

- (a) Existing operations at the Port of Tauranga;
- (b) The activities that comprise the Stella Passage Development project (**Project**);
- (c) The rationale for the Project;
- (d) Consultation and/or engagement undertaken to date in relation to the Project and its predecessors;
- (e) The applicable planning framework;
- (f) The content and structure of proposed conditions.

[6] During the briefing:

- (a) the Applicant will present a high-level overview of the matters addressed in paragraph [5] above; and
- (b) the Expert Panel may ask initial questions, noting that Panel members plan to have familiarised themselves with the Substantive Application Report by the time of the briefing but will not have had an opportunity to review the entire application nor consider matters in any detail.

[7] To facilitate the overview of the application referred to above, it is suggested that the Applicant provide a short PowerPoint presentation to the EPA's Application Lead, Melita Raravula ([info@fastrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fastrack.govt.nz)) no later than 4.00pm Tuesday 24 March 2026 (who will then circulate this to the Panel members) and then speak to it at the briefing on Thursday 26 March 2026.

[8] In the interests of transparency, and to provide potential commenters with the same information as that provided to the Panel, any PowerPoint will be made available on the Fast-track website in advance of the conference and the briefing will be recorded and made available on the Fast-track website following the conference.

[9] Further details for the briefing session can be provided by Melita Raravula who can be contacted at: [info@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fasttrack.govt.nz)



Bronwyn Carruthers KC

Stella Passage Development Expert Panel Chair