

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 3 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Request for information to the Applicant
Hananui Aquaculture Project
[FTAA-2511-1138]

1 April 2026

[1] As mentioned in Minute 1, on 26 March 2026 the Panel attended the second part of the online project overview conference. The focus of the second conference was planning and legal matters, as well as landscape.

[2] During the conference, the Panel indicated to the Applicant that it would likely issue requests for information this week.

[3] Under section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), the Panel may direct the EPA to request further information from certain parties at any time before the Panel makes its final decision on the application.

[4] The Panel directs the EPA to request legal submissions from the Applicant on the following:

- a) How the project relies upon an Adaptive Management approach;
- b) The existing applicable legal principles relating to the use of adaptive management in the RMA context and whether the Act requires any amendments to the application of those principles; and
- c) How the project's assessments and conditions have responded to those legal principles.

[5] Section 67(3) specifies that the Panel sets the due date for responses to a request for information, and that this date must not be more than 10 working days after the request is made. The Panel sets a due date of **Friday 10 April 2026** (5 working days) for a response.

[6] Comments on the application are due on 30 April 2026, and as the legal submissions are expected ahead of this date, the Panel would appreciate if Environment Southland and the Department of Conservation could address them in their comments on the application.

[7] If any other party providing invited comments wishes to respond to the Applicant's legal submissions they may do so, but no later than 30 April 2026.



Bal Matheson KC
Hananui Aquaculture Project Expert Panel Chair