
MINUTE 2 OF THE PANEL CONVENER
Preparation for conference - Councils and WRA
[Green Steel] [FTAA-2506-1074]
(25 August 2025)

[1] The project area that is the subject of this application is located within the Waikato River (Te Ture Whaimana) catchment. The section 18 report from MfE therefore summarises a range of directly applicable co-governance and joint management arrangements that derive from the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010.

[2] Of relevance to my statutory duties as panel convener in relation to expert panel appointments and the setting of a decision timeframe, these arrangements include:

- (a) Appointment of decision makers, including joint appointment of a chairperson, to any hearing committee (section 28 of the Settlement Act);
- (b) Notification by the local authority to the Waikato River Authority of certain consent applications and supporting information (section 27 of the Settlement Act);
- (c) 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] 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.

Preparation for conference – Waikato River Authority, Waikato Regional Council and Waikato District Council

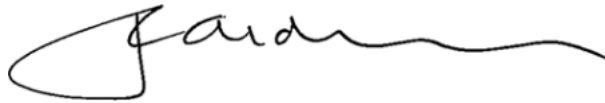
[4] On that basis I request that the two councils and the Waikato River Authority confer and provide, in advance of the conference, their views as to:

- (a) The interface between the panel appointment process under this Act and the decision maker appointment process under the Settlement Act, and in particular the process requirements for such appointments;
- (b) How the process and procedural requirements for consent applications set out in the Joint Management Agreements can be accommodated within the fast track process;
- (c) Whether any modifications to those process and procedural requirements to ensure alignment with the fast track process would be acceptable to the Waikato River Authority; and
- (d) The extent to which compliance with the requirements of the Joint Management Agreements may impact the setting of a decision timeframe for this application.

[5] I note that this information will also be relevant to the expert panel for this application, once appointed.

Direction

[6] The Waikato River Authority, Waikato Regional Council and Waikato District Council are to file a written response to the matters set out above, in addition to any response provided to the matters raised in Minute 1. Responses are to be filed by **Monday 1 September 2025**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Caldwell', followed by a vertical line.

Jennifer Caldwell

Associate panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024