
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 reports for Takitimu North Link - Stage 2 [FTAA-2507-1085] 8 September 2025 (amended 17 September 2025)

[1] This Minute directs the EPA to obtain advice and reports under section 51 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

[2] Specifically, the EPA is to obtain advice and a report from:

- (a) the Director-General of Conservation regarding both the wildlife approval and the complex freshwater fisheries activity approval, as outlined in clauses 3 and 4 of Schedules 7 and 9 respectively; and
- (b) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council concerning the archaeological authority, as specified in clause 3 of Schedule 8.

Specific directions to the Director-General of Conservation

[3] The Director-General of Conservation is to:

- (a) file a report advising how the weighting of matters set out in Schedule 7, clause 3 of the Act should be approached, having regard to relevant senior court decisions, pursuant to section 51(1) of the Act;
- (b) file a report in accordance with schedule 7, clause 3 of the Act, if the Director-General of Conservation disagrees with, or wishes to amplify, the expert and planning assessment lodged in support of the

wildlife approval.

[4] For the avoidance of doubt, the Director-General of Conservation:

- (a) may confirm and append advice previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project; and
- (b) does not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if it concurs with the expert and planning assessments filed by the applicant.

[5] The Director-General of Conservation is to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plan attached to the application, recommending track-changed amendments (if any).

Specific directions to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council

[6] Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council are to:

- (a) file a report advising how the weighting of matters set out in Schedule 8, Clause 4 of the Act is to be approached, having regard to relevant senior court decisions, pursuant to section 51(1) of the Act.
- (b) file a report giving their recommendation either to grant, subject to conditions, or decline the approvals sought; and
- (c) advise whether they disagree with or wish to expand upon the expert report and planning assessment lodged in support of the archaeological approval, they are to file a report accordingly.

[7] For the avoidance of doubt, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council:

- (a) may confirm and append advice previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project; and
- (b) do not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if they concur with the expert and planning assessments filed by the applicant.

[8] Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council are to respond to the draft conditions, including the Archaeological Management Plan attached to the application and labelled H.08 - Archaeological Management Plan, recommending track-changed amendments (if any).

[9] Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).



Helen Atkins

Associate Panel Convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024