
MINUTE 1 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Recording of the project overview conference, site visit and request for information from the Applicant

[Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal
[FTAA-2510-1118]

(9 February 2026)

- [1] The purpose of this Minute is to:
- (a) formally record a summary of the project overview conference that occurred on 5 February 2026 with the Applicant and other participants;
 - (b) formally record a summary of the site visit that occurred on 5 February 2026; and
 - (c) to request information from the Applicant under s67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2025 (FTAA).

Project Overview Conference

- [2] The attendees at the project overview conference were:
- (a) Expert Panel members – Helen Atkins, Mark Ashby and Ray O’Callaghan;
 - (b) EPA Application Lead – Daya Thomson;
 - (c) Applicant – Thad Ryan, Frances Weede, Jo Lester, John Howarth, Kirsty O’Sullivan, Ellen Robotham, Jennifer Hart, Darran Humpheson, , Michael Buckland, Chris Wedding;
 - (d) Wellington City Council – Claire McNeill, William Swan, Susannah Goble;

- (e) Wellington Regional Council – Andrew Banks, Jessica Glover; and
- (f) Department of Conservation – Katherine Anton, Amelia Wilkinson, Charlotte Grey, Leah McEnhill;
- (g) Te Ātiawa ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Pōtiki Trust – Lee Rauhina-August;
- (h) Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira – Ella Jaspers, Hanita Dinsdale;
- (i) Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust – Kara Puketapu-Dentice.

[3] Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the Ministry for the Environment, and Wellington Tenth Trust was also invited to the briefing but did not attend.

[4] The Applicant provided a PowerPoint presentation that was referred to during the overview conference. This presentation will be made available on the website.

[5] At the conference various members of the Applicant project team provided an overview of the Application/Project with reference to the PowerPoint presentation. The focus was very much on the nature of the Project and the environment within which it is situated namely it is an operational airport and an extremely challenging coastal environment.

[6] At the end of the Applicant's presentation the other participants were asked if they had any issues to raise and they confirmed that they did not.

[7] The Expert Panel members had an opportunity to ask questions about the Application. Any specific matters requiring a written response have been included in this Minute.

[8] At the end of the conference I noted that the next steps are:

- (a) the Expert Panel will request comments by 10 February 2026;
- (b) comments will be due by 10 March 2026
- (c) the Applicant's response to the comments will be due on 17 March

2026.

[9] I also noted that the Expert Panel has the power under section 67 FTAA to request further information or reports.

[10] The Panel would like to take this opportunity to thank the participants for their attendance at the conference which it found extremely useful.

Site visit

[11] Later on the same day, 5 February, the Panel undertook a site visit and visited the following locations accompanied by members of the Applicant team:

- (a) From the roof top level of multi-level carpark building to view the Miramar Golf Course Construction Yard and southwards towards the seawall and Lyall Bay including the George Bolt Construction Yard;
- (b) Drove south along Stewart Duff Drive and viewed the Kororā Stage 1 Area and walked past the Moa Point Road houses, Stage 2 Kororā area and Moa Point Yard;
- (c) Walked around the southern seawall crest;
- (d) Drove to the George Bolt Construction Yard;
- (e) Drove to Strathmore Park (Raukawa Street and Kekerenga Street);
- (f) Walked to the top part of Bunker Way.

Further information

[12] Since the application was lodged there have been several changes to the National Policy Statement framework. We noted this at the conference and indicated that we would be requesting further information about this. Can the Applicant provide a succinct overview of how they consider the changes to the NPS framework relate to this application. We direct that this is provided by Friday 13 February 2026.

[13] At the Conference the Expert Panel questioned whether or not construction of the new seawall triggers reclamation provisions in the regional plan. This was answered by the Project Planner and we noted that there would be an opportunity to answer the question in writing, we therefore direct that this is provided by Friday 13 February 2026.

[14] We were also told that there were ongoing discussions regarding conditions, and we noted that there are opportunities to provide us with information about this down the track.



Helen Atkins
Expert Panel Chair