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### **MINUTE 7 OF THE EXPERT PANEL**

Further information to inform expert conference (ecology) and issue to be addressed at conditions workshop  
Takitimu North Link – Stage 2  
[FTAA-2507-1085]

14 January 2026

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[1] This minute records the Panel’s expectations in relation to information to be provided by the Applicant in advance of the expert conference (ecology) and raises an issue relating to excess cut material which the Panel seeks to be addressed through the conditions workshop.

#### **Information for expert conference (ecology)**

[2] In its Minute 6 dated 13 January 2026, the Panel indicated that it would separately consider whether any further information requests are required at this stage under s67 of the Act, arising from the items identified at paragraph 11 of Graham Ussher’s report of the same date (**Information Items**), which has been circulated to all conference participants.

[3] The Panel has considered this matter and notes that all of the Information Items are at least indirectly raised through the issues included in the agenda circulated by the Panel (prepared with the assistance of Graham Ussher) for the purpose of the expert conference (ecology) scheduled for Tuesday 20 January. The Panel anticipates that the parties’ experts (and particularly the Applicant’s experts) will come prepared to address those matters at conferencing and that the Applicant will provide any supporting information relevant to those matters as part of the

information capsule anticipated at para [12][e] of Minute 3.

[4] The Panel wishes to signal that any of the Information Items that are not sufficiently clarified through the conferencing process (as reflected in the resultant Joint Witness Statement) may be the subject of a further information request issued pursuant to s67 of the Act following conferencing.

**Issue to be considered at conditions workshop (excess cut material)**

[5] In its review of the Application and supporting traffic assessment (ITA), the Panel has identified an issue which it considers should be addressed through the conditions workshop.

[6] That issue relates to the potential for the proposal to generate up to 2,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of material which will need to be disposed of in offsite locations that are likely to be distant from the Project Area (refer paras 2.6.6, 2.6.13, and 4.4.4 of the AEE; and paras 6.2.2, 6.2.9 and 7.3 of the ITA).

[7] The Applicant proposes that Management Plans will address and manage the need to identify suitable sites for disposal of that excess material (AEE para 2.6.6).

[8] The Panel observes that the comments provided by Western Bay of Plenty District Council address the potential impact on local roading due to significant volumes of material imported to the site, but do not appear to address the proposed significant volume of material proposed to be exported from the site.

[9] From the Panel's initial review, the proposed construction management plan and construction traffic management plan appear to be silent on this issue.

[10] The ITA advises that earthworks cut material will be reused wherever possible

as engineered fill or landscape / buttress fill and that the use of public roads should be avoided wherever possible. These matters do not appear to be the subject of clear condition requirements.

[11] The Panel seeks that this issue be considered and addressed through the upcoming conditions workshop scheduled for **Wednesday 21 January**. If this issue is not sufficiently clarified or addressed through the conferencing process (as reflected in the resultant Joint Witness Statement or agreed set of conditions), then the Panel may issue a further information request pursuant to s67 of the Act following the conditions workshop.



Mary Hill  
Takitimu North Link – Stage 2 Expert Panel Chair