

# Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

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## MINUTE #4 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Request of Waitaki Rūnanga and applicant for further information, and advice on the appointment of an avifauna expert  
Haldon Solar [FTAA-2508-1097]

16 February 2026

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### Request of applicant and the Waitaki Rūnanga

[1] This Minute records that the Panel has issued a Request for Further Information under s 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 from the applicant relating to landscape issues and ecological issues. It has also issued a Request for Information to the Waitaki Rūnanga.

[2] The responses are to be provided by 5 pm on Monday 23 February 2026.

### Appointment of technical adviser

[3] The Panel has decided under clause 10(3) of the third schedule of the FTAA to appoint an independent senior avifauna expert to assist it.

[4] The reason for this is the detailed avifauna evidence by way of senior expert briefs and submissions provided by the s 53 entities and the serious issues raised. The avifauna issues raised by the s 53 experts are not all addressed in sufficient detail by the applicant in its response, and the Panel will benefit from an overview of a senior expert.

[5] Any reports from such an expert will be distributed to the applicant and s 53 entities who commented will have an opportunity to comment.

*Raynor Asher*

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Hon Raynor Asher KC

**The Point Solar Farm Expert Panel Chair**