

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 4 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Project Overview Conference

State Highway 1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus) Substantive Application [FTAA-2512-1157]

20 April 2026

Project Overview Conference

[1] On 14 April 2026 the Panel convened a Project Overview Conference that was attended by representatives from NZTA and the four administering agencies (Waimakariri District Council (WDC), Canterbury Regional Council (CRC), Department of Conservation (DOC) and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT)).

[2] Counsel for NZTA and various experts spoke to a PowerPoint presentation¹ and answered questions posed by Panel members. Representatives of the administering agencies outlined what they considered were the key areas of contention that the Panel would need to consider.

[3] We posed several questions to counsel for NZTA and requested that they be addressed in a Memorandum:

- (a) Does FTAA Schedule 5 clause 23 apply to the change of conditions sought for the Designation?
- (b) Does FTAA Schedule 5 clause 30 mean that the normal RMA process of recommending back to the requiring authority (RMA s 171(2)) does not apply?
- (c) Do amendments to the NPS:HPL affect section 6.7.3 of the Substantive Application and if so how?

¹ Available on the FTAA Project website <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/state-highway-1-north-canterbury-woodend-bypass-project-belfast-to-pegasus>

- (d) Which version of the FTAA does the Panel operate under – the 13 March 2026 version or the 17 December 2025 version?

[4] We would appreciate it if counsel could include in the Memorandum advice on NZTA's position regarding some matters that arose during the Overview Conference, including:

- (a) WDC's view that the documentation and plans provided in the substantive application do not provide sufficient certainty of landscape outcomes (noting that WDC have requested additional documentation during ongoing post lodgement discussions);
- (b) The 'deemed certification' of management plans (which DOC, WDC and CRC indicated they are opposed to); and
- (c) The process that NZTA proposes for certification of the Lizard Management Plan and the Archaeological and Cultural Sites Management Plan.

Site Visit

[5] Following the Overview Conference, we conducted a site visit accompanied by representatives from NZTA and the EPA. The itinerary is attached as Appendix 1.

Designation Conditions

[6] The Panel advised it had identified some preliminary issues with NZTA's proposed amendments to the Designation conditions and suggested that it would be conducive to an efficient process if those issues were disseminated to NZTA and the councils so that they could be taken into account in the section 53 comments from the councils and the subsequent section 55 response from NZTA.

[7] It was agreed that would occur by way of a Teams conference to take place on Friday 24 April 2026 commencing at 9am.

Administering Agencies Section 53 Comments

[8] The Panel would appreciate it if the administering agencies could include in their section 53 comments Microsoft WORD 'track changes' versions of the conditions, showing amendments to the Applicant's proposed conditions that formed part of the Substantive Application (Application documents 2C and 2D) that each respective agency wishes the Panel to consider.

[9] It would be helpful if the WORD documents contained reasons for each

amendment sought and whether changes have been agreed in principle with NZTA based on the ongoing post lodgement engagement that has occurred.

[10] We understand that DOC and HNZPT will be documenting any suggested amendments to the conditions of the Wildlife Approval and the Archaeological Authority in their respective section 51 Reports.

NZTA's Section 55 Response

[11] The Panel would appreciate it if in its section 55 response, NZTA could indicate (also in Microsoft WORD documents) which of the administering agencies suggested amendments they accept and which they do not accept (with reasons). NZTA should also document any additional (or different) amendments to the conditions that they wish the Panel to consider.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob van Voorthuysen', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob van Voorthuysen

Woodend Bypass Project Expert Panel Chair

Appendix 1: Site Visit Itinerary

Stop 1: SH1 section including Rossiter Drain

Stop 2: Quarry lakes / Barkers Road / Williams Street area

Stop 3: Gladstone Road including the former landfill site at 162 Gladstone Road.

Stop 4: Taranaki Stream and the Pegasus roundabout

Stop 5: Waihora Creek and wetland