

2 July 2025

Jennifer Caldwell
Associate Panel Convener

Response to Convener's Conference for Taranaki VTM Project Minute

Tēnā koe Jennifer

Thank you for your minute dated 26 June 2025 and for the invitation to the Convener Conference on 7 July. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

We can confirm that both I and Becky Wolland, Head of Strategy and Governance, will attend the conference.

In response to the questions raised, we believe the following skills are essential for inclusion on the panel:

- **Environmental science:** Deep understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems, with specific expertise in sedimentation and its ecological impacts.
- **Cultural competency:** Proven experience engaging with iwi and hapū, and the ability to incorporate Te Ao Māori perspectives meaningfully into decision-making.
- **Legal and regulatory frameworks:** Strong familiarity with the Resource Management Act, the Fast Track Approvals Act, and relevant case law to navigate the complex legal landscape surrounding the application.
- **Economic analysis:** Capability to undertake and interpret cost-benefit assessments, including broader social and environmental economic impacts.
- **Risk management:** Experience identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks associated with large-scale environmental projects, particularly under new legislative frameworks.

Given the complexity, length, and contentious nature of the application, along with its connection to the introduction of a new legislative framework under the Fast Track Approvals Act, we anticipate that the panel will require substantial time to reach a well-considered decision. We also expect that expert conferencing will be necessary to support this process. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that a hearing be held for the application to ensure all relevant matters are thoroughly examined.

We look forward to engaging further at the conference.

Ngā mihi nui



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