
MINUTE 24 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Acceptance of late submissions
by Te Tōpuni Ngārahu Trust
Taranaki VTM project
[FTAA-2504-1048]

(17 November 2025)

[1] On 4 November 2025, the Taranaki VTM Expert Panel issued Minute 11 forewarning participants of its intention to conduct a hearing of contentious legal issues arising from the application. A formal notice of hearing was issued on 11 November 2025, informing participants that notice of their intention to appear, and their submissions, must be filed by 14 November 2025.

[2] By email dated 14 November 2025, Te Tōpuni Ngārahu Trust (the Trust) sought an unlimited extension of time to register its interest in participating in the legal issues hearing and to file the Trust's submissions.

[3] The request did not give any reasons for an extension.

[4] The time frame for filing submissions prior to the hearing was set to allow the Panel sufficient time to consider the submissions and prepare any questions for the participants' representatives attending the hearing on 26 November 2025. Failure to comply with the Panel's directions compromises that preparation. Moreover, the Panel will not be assisted by late submissions that repeat points or arguments advanced in the submissions filed by other participants within time.

[5] Nevertheless, the Panel grants the Trust a short extension of time to 4pm on Wednesday, 19 November 2025 to file its submissions, subject to the strict conditions that the Trust's submissions shall:

- (a) inform the Panel whether the Trust wishes to participate in the hearing and, if so, who will be appearing on its behalf;
- (b) be limited to new points or arguments not advanced in any submission filed by another participant on or before 14 November 2025; and

- (c) otherwise comply with Panel's directions at paragraph 6a of the Notice of hearing dated 11 November 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Toogood', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon. Kit Toogood KC
Chair, Taranaki VTM Expert Panel