

# Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

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## MINUTE #4 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Correspondence from Department of Conservation  
Waitaha Hydro [FTAA-2505-1069]

1 December 2025

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### Correspondence received

[1] On 26 November 2025, the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) submitted a memorandum to the Panel seeking that we revisit our decision on invitations to comment under s.53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**), and extend an invitation to recreational user groups.

[2] On 27 November 2025, the Applicant submitted a memorandum opposing DOC's request on a number of grounds.

[3] We acknowledge both memoranda. The matters we took into account when exercising our discretionary power are briefly summarised in our Minute 3. We will address these matters further in our substantive decision.

[4] As a result the Panel have decided it will not be issuing further invitations to comment.

[5] A copy of both memoranda will be uploaded to the Waitaha Hydro project page on the Fast-track website: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/waitaha-hydro/correspondence>.



Vicki Morrison-Shaw  
**Waitaha Hydro Expert Panel Chair**