

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 9 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Commencement date for consent
Hananui Aquaculture Project
[FTAA-2511-1138]

23 July 2026

Comments on the draft conditions

[1] On 9 July 2026, the Panel issued its draft conditions and draft decision and invited responses from the relevant parties under sections 70-72 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

[2] Comments invited under s 70 closed on 17 July 2026, and the recommendation on the aquaculture decision under s 71 has also been received from the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Primary Industries.

[3] Copies of the comments received, and the recommendation can be viewed on the fast-track website, here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/hananui-aquaculture-project/draft-decision-and-conditions>

Commencement date for the consent

[4] All parties are thanked for their responses on the Panel's draft decision and consent conditions. The Panel is considering the matters raised.

[5] One matter in contention relates to the commencement date of the consent. The Applicant's response indicates that it wishes to ensure that it can maximise the duration for which it is able to undertake its activities, and had

accordingly proposed that the consent would commence later than the date the Panel's final decision is issued under section 81 of the Act. The Panel's draft conditions had proposed an alternative method for determining what that commencement date should be.

[6] The Panel is considering the comments from the Director-General of Conservation in response to that condition, however what is clear (and appears agreed by all parties) is that an approval under the Act can commence either at the date on which the Panel's decision document is issued, **or any later date specified by the Panel in the decision document** (s 97(1) of the Act; emphasis added).

[7] If the Panel decides that it would prefer to insert a specific commencement date into the decision document, it would assist if the Applicant were able to provide any views on what that date should be. To assist with that process, the Panel can indicate that it could accommodate some flexibility to the commencement date, out to say 2 years from the date of issue of the decision.

[8] The Panel would appreciate a response from the Applicant by 28 July 2026.



Bal Matheson KC
Hananui Aquaculture Project Expert Panel Chair