
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for State Highway 29 Tauriko Network
Connections
[FTAA-2606-1254]

17 August 2026

[1] New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 31 July 2026.

[2] The application focuses on State Highway 29 (SH29) and State Highway 29A, which connect Tauranga with Hamilton and the wider region. Located within the Tauriko West growth area on the western edge of Tauranga, the Project extends generally from the SH29 Ōmanawa Road intersection in the west, through Tauriko West UGA and the adjacent Tauriko Business Estate, and east toward the Barks Corner intersection, including connections with Takitimu Drive and the Takitimu North Link interchange.

[3] The application seeks approvals including:

- (a) wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h);
- (b) archaeological authority under section 42(4)(i).

[4] Pursuant to section 51 of the Act, the panel convener directs the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to obtain the following reports:

From the Director-General of the Department of Conservation (DOC):

- (a) a report under clause 3 of Schedule 7 for the wildlife approval

(s42(4)(h));

From Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council (HNZPT and MHC):

- (b) a report under clause 3 of Schedule 8 for the archaeological authority (s42(4)(i)).

Advice Requested

[5] The panel convener also directs the EPA to obtain advice from DOC and HNZPT on the following:

- (a) How the weighting of matters set out in the relevant schedules should be approached, having regard to applicable statutory provisions and relevant senior court decisions (s51(1)).
- (b) If the agency does not agree with, or wishes to amplify on, the expert and planning assessments lodged in support of the application, it must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d))
- (c) The agency may confirm and append advice previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project and does not need to provide an assessment if it concurs with the applicant's assessments.
- (d) The agency is to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

Timing

[6] Reports and advice must be provided to the EPA **within 10 working days after the panel invites comments on the application**, in accordance with section 51(4) of the Act.

Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H Atkins', with a stylized, cursive script.

Helen Atkins

Panel convener for the purposes of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024