

Jennifer Caldwell
Associate Panel Convener

Response to Convener's Conference for Taranaki VTM Project Minute

Dear Ms Caldwell

Thank you for your minute dated 26 June 2025 and invitation to the convener conference on 7 July. Please find below our responses to the questions raised. We can confirm that myself and Finbar Kiddle, Strategy Lead, will attend the conference.

From our perspective, we think the following skills are needed on the panel (noting these are in addition to the requirement in the Fast Track Approvals Act (the Act) to have skills in Te Ao Māori and Māori development):

- Regional knowledge of Taranaki's social, economic, cultural and environmental reality and key issues the region is facing – including from a tangata whenua perspective.
- Technical expertise regarding marine and coastal science, particularly the effects of sedimentation.
- Planning experience.
- Experience developing and implementing robust and enforceable consent conditions.
- Economic expertise, particularly experience in undertaking cost benefit analysis.
- Decision-making experience (e.g. having worked as a Resource Management Act Commissioner).

We expect the panel will require significant time to reach its decision. The application is complicated, lengthy, contentious, intricately related to a significant body of case law, and novel. When adding on a new legislative framework under the Fast Track Approvals Act, sufficient time will be essential to ensure the Panel can work its way through the many factors that will influence its decision. Sufficient time for expert conferencing is also likely to be needed.

For the above reasons, we also consider a hearing for the application will be required.

Yours faithfully



S J Ruru
Chief Executive