
MINUTE 8 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Panel Determinations on Comments

Mt Welcome, Pukerua Bay, Porirua Project

FTAA-2603-1181

(7 August 2026)

[1] The Expert Panel needs to address the status of two comments.

[2] First, the EPA received comment and supporting photos from Mana Arts Centre on 30 July 2026 (one day before the deadline). Mana Arts Centre was not invited to comment and the Fast-track Approvals Act (**FTAA**) does not give us any discretion to consider its comment.

[3] Second, the Minister of Education provided the EPA with a comment on Tuesday 4 August (two working days after the deadline). The Minister was invited to comment and section 81(6) of the FTAA gives us a discretion to consider the Minister's comment.

[4] The EPA advises that the Minister provided no reason as to why her comment was late.

[5] In the absence of any explanation for the delay in providing the Minister's response, the Panel has determined that it will decline to exercise its discretion and will not consider the Minister's comment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Robinson', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Trevor Robinson
Expert Panel Chair