

# Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

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## MINUTE #5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Technical Advisers Appointed  
Waitaha Hydro [FTAA-2505-1069]

15 December 2025

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- [1] The purpose of this Minute #5 is to:
- a) confirm the appointment of technical advisers, as it is provided for in clause 10(3) of Schedule 3 of the Act; and
  - b) note the further information received.

### Appointment of technical advisers

[2] In Minute #3 on 26 November 2025 the Panel noted it had determined it appropriate to appoint technical advisers in three specialist areas and that confirmation would be provided once appointments had been made. The following technical advisers have now been appointed:

- a) Megan Couture of Beca to assist the Panel on planning and condition matters;
- b) Associate Professor Jon Tunnicliffe of Auckland University to advise the Panel on fluvial geomorphological matters;
- c) Paul Morgan of River and Fish Engineering Solutions in relation to hydraulic engineering and fish screen matters.

[3] In addition, the Panel has determined it is appropriate to appoint a recreation expert to undertake a peer review of the recreation report and assist the Panel in relation to recreation matters. The Panel has appointed Paul Wilson of Xyst to fulfil this role.

### Further information received

[4] The Department of Conservation has provided its section 51 reports. These reports were received on 10 December 2025.

[5] The Panel also issued a request for further information from the Applicant on 19 November 2025. The Applicant responded on 10 December 2025.

[6] The section 51 reports and the Applicant's response to the further information are available on the FTAA website here:

<https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/waitaha-hydro/reports-and-advice>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vicki Morrison-Shaw'.

Vicki Morrison-Shaw

**Waitaha Hydro Expert Panel Chair**