
MINUTE 1 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Project overview conference

Lake Pukaki Hydro Storage and dam Resilience Works [FTAA-2510-1120]

(6 March 2026)

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the date and the details for a project overview briefing conference from the Applicant and an Expert Panel site visit.

[2] The briefing will be held on 1 or 2 April 2026 in person in Twizel, with specific details to be resolved closer to the time.

[3] A site visit will be conducted during the same period.

[4] The purpose of the conference is to familiarise the Expert Panel with:

- (a) the content of the application for approvals;
- (b) the content and structure of proposed conditions;¹
- (c) the key points of evidence (technical reports, assessments and other information) provided in support of the application;
- (d) relevant legal tests and legal issues in contention;
- (e) engagement with Waitaki Rūnaka; and
- (f) other relevant matters.

¹ Including management plans, adaptive management protocols drafting style

[5] It is anticipated that the conference will be led by representatives of Meridian Energy Limited, along with legal counsel and agents from GHD Limited.

[6] During the conference:

- (a) the Applicant has an opportunity to present a high-level overview of the application;
- (b) the Expert Panel has an opportunity to ask any questions about the application noting that by the time of the briefing panel members will have familiarised themselves with the documents; and
- (c) the participants may raise any matters that they wish to bring to the panel's attention.

[7] The Expert Panel requests the following additional experts attend the conference and be ready to present a three-page summary of their reports identifying the key issues addressed:

- (a) Oliver Munan (or equivalent);
- (b) Rebecca Wilson (provision should be made for participation via audiovisual link);
- (c) Grant Webby (or equivalent);
- (d) Brent Layton;
- (e) Toby Stevenson; and
- (f) Kim Goodfellow

[8] The participants should note that, while the Expert Panel will be familiar with the application documents, they will not have had an opportunity to consider matters in detail. There will be further opportunities in this process for that to occur.

[9] Further details in relation to the briefing session will be confirmed with the Applicant by Daya Thomson, Application Lead, who can be contacted at: info@fastrack.govt.nz.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KRMjl', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kitt R M Littlejohn
Expert Panel Chair