
MINUTE 9 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Draft Decision and Conditions
Foxton Solar Farm [FTAA-2510-1121]
[28 July 2026]

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to inform parties of the draft decision and draft conditions and to direct the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to invite:

- (a) Comments on the draft conditions of consent from specified parties under section 70 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA); and
- (b) Comments on the draft decision and draft conditions from specified Ministers under section 72 of the FTAA

[2] The draft decision and conditions are included as Appendices and will be posted on the fast-track website and can be viewed here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/foxton-solar-farm/draft-decision-and-conditions>

Section 70 of the Act

[3] Section 70 of the Act requires the Panel to direct the EPA to provide a copy of the draft decision and conditions to the Applicant, everyone who provided comments under s 53 and all relevant local authorities or statutory bodies. We direct accordingly.

[4] We must also specify the date by which comments on the draft conditions must be received by the EPA. We note that while the draft decision is provided

at this time, the Act provides for comments on the draft conditions only.

[5] We fix **4 August 2026** as the date by which comments must be received by the EPA.

[6] The Panel requests that any party commenting on the draft conditions provides precise wording of any amendments sought to those conditions. This should be done using ‘track changes’ format. The Panel also requests that reasons are provided for the amendments sought, either by way of track changes ‘comments’ or in a separate tabulated document.

[7] Word Format copies of the draft conditions can be provided by the EPA upon request. Please contact: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

[8] As detailed in subsection 4 of s 70, the Applicant must file any response to the comments received within 5 working days of comments close. The applicant’s response to the comments received under s 70 is therefore due by **11 August 2026**.

[9] The Panel requests that the Applicant’s s70(4) response clearly indicates whether the amendments sought in the section 70 comments of the commentators are accepted or rejected, with reason.

Section 72 of the Act

[10] Under this section, the Panel must direct the EPA to invite comments from the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and the Minister for Māori Development on the draft decision, including any draft conditions. We direct accordingly.

[11] We allow the Ministers 10 working days to comment on the draft decision, including as to the assessments made by the panel in relation to relevant Treaty settlements and any draft conditions related to that assessment. Comments from

the Ministers are therefore due on **11 August 2026**.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Dewar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Dewar

Foxton Solar Farm Expert Panel Chair