
MINUTE 1 OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Response to Bathurst Memorandum on Process and Next Steps

[FTAA – 2608 – 1279]

24 August 2026

[1] On 24 August Bathurst Resources Limited, BT Mining Limited, Buller Coal Limited and Bathurst Coal Limited ('Bathurst') lodged an application seeking approvals under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 for the Buller Plateaux Continuation Project.

Timeframe for a decision

[2] Bathurst filed a memorandum indicating its view that the timeframe for a decision on the application should be 160 working days. Decisions on timeframe require careful testing having regard to, amongst other matters, the principal issues in contention and the methods proposed to narrow or resolve those issues. The timeframe must be appropriate for the panel to consider the application and comments filed together with new information following conferences and hearings. Bathurst is to anticipate a future direction that it prepare a draft timetable identifying the timing and sequencing of key events. Bathurst will need to confer with other participants in the convener's conference to do so.

Conference date and other steps

[3] Bathurst suggests the following indicative dates: (a) a convener conference between 7 and 9 October 2026; and (b) the Expert Panel's project overview conference and site visit in the week commencing 16 or 23 November 2026.

[4] I advise that the convener's conference will be scheduled after receipt of the EPA's advice on whether the application complies with the requirements of section 46(2) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. I understand that conference participants may be engaged in mediation scheduled by the Environment Court during October - November 2026. Accordingly, I will liaise on the date of the conference with the applicant and statutory participants who will be invited to attend.

[5] The panel will in due course schedule the site visit and project overview conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The letter "J" is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke that extends to the left and then curves back up to form the letter. The word "Jane" is written in a cursive, handwritten style.

Jane Borthwick

Panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024