

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 3 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Additional invitation to comment, request for information, and other matters
Barrytown Minerals Project [FTAA-2605-1238]

21 September 2026

Additional invitation to comment

[1] On 31 August 2026, the Barrytown Minerals Project Panel (the Panel) invited comments on the application under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act (the Act). Comments close on 28 September 2026.

[2] It has come to the Panel's attention that the Westland Petrel Conservation Trust (the Trust) were not invited to comment. The Panel believes this was an oversight and that its consideration of the application may benefit from the Trust's input.

[3] The Panel therefore extends an invitation to comment on the application to the Westland Petrel Conservation Trust under section 53(3) of the Act. The Trust were informally notified of this decision on 18 September 2026, and this Minute confirms that communication.

[4] The EPA has confirmed with the Trust that it is content to provide any comments on the application within the same timeframe as those initially invited to comment. The Trust's comments are therefore due on 28 September 2026.

Site visit

[5] The Panel records that it visited the project site and surrounding area on 8 September 2026.

[6] In addition to visiting the location of the proposed Southern Block project, the Panel also visited:

- a) The location of the Applicant's Mineral Separation Plant at Rapahoe (consents for which have already been granted by the local authority);
- b) The Central Block and Maher Swamp, located near the project site; and
- c) The location of the Westland petrel | Tāiko colony, near Punakaiki.

[7] The Panel thanks the Applicant and the Westland Petrel Conservation Trust for facilitating the site visit.

Appointment of special advisers

[8] Under clause 10(2) of Schedule 3 of the Act, the Panel may appoint special advisers to assist with "*any matters that the panel may determine.*"

[9] The Panel has appointed Digimaster Limited and Liz White from Liz White Planning to assist with typing and decision-writing tasks, respectively.

Request for information

[10] Under section 67 of the Act, the Panel may request further information from certain parties at any time before the final decision on the application is made.

[11] Accordingly, the Panel requests that the Applicant provide the information set out in Appendix 1 to this Minute.

[12] Section 67(3) specifies that the Panel sets the due date for responses to a request for information, and that this date must not be more than 10 working days after the request is made. The Panel sets a due date of Monday 5 October 2026 (10 working days) for a response.



John Maassen

Barrytown Minerals Project Expert Panel Chair

Appendix 1 – Request #1 to the Applicant for information

Mining Method

[1] While the mining method is described in general terms in Mr Federici's evidence (Appendix L2A), it is difficult to visualise. Please provide a long section and plan (to scale) showing the position of the dredge at the mining face (at the described batter angles). Please also illustrate the minimum area of open mining void, as well as the tailings that will follow the dredge. This is necessary to support the Panel's assessment of a range of potential effects.

Timing of Wetland construction

[2] The first stage of wetland construction is developed within the first two years of operations (at Paragraph 8.33 of the substantive application). The Panel requires additional information to assess the feasibility of this early-stage wetland development.

[3] The wetland development will occur in mined-out areas. If approximately 83-85% of all dredged material is to be returned to the mining voids as tailings, it is unclear how sufficient void space will be provided in the first two years to allow the wetland to be constructed. Additional detail is required to help the Panel assess whether constructing the Stage 1 wetland within the first two years of mining is achievable.

Tailings disposal area

[4] Some form of out-of-pit tailings disposal area (either temporary or permanent) will almost certainly be required in the early stages of mining to create sufficient space between the leading edge of mining and the trailing edge of mining to operate the closed-loop tailings methodology efficiently. Taking this into account along with the Stage 1 wetland development (which will also reduce capacity for in-pit tailings disposal volumes), please provide information on:

- a) where the early phase out of pit tailings areas will be located;
- b) how much volume needs to be disposed of out of pit; and
- c) the footprint of this out of pit disposal area and its design life (will it be temporary or permanent).

Project footprint

[5] The Panel is unclear how the early stages of mining will fit within the proposed maximum open area of 16 ha. This needs to incorporate all open mining areas, any out-of-pit tailings areas, borrow areas, and the construction of the proposed Stage 1 wetland (which, in and of itself, will exceed 30 ha). Additional information is needed to demonstrate how the matters set out above will work together operationally to fall within the proposed 16 ha open area.

Relation to central block operations

[6] What is the relationship between mining in the previously consented central block and the southern block under consideration in this fast-track application? Is early-stage excavation in the southern block reliant on tailings disposal into previously mined areas of the central block?

Mine batters

[7] The Panel has reviewed the evidence provided by Mr Federici regarding the expected stability of mine batters and recommended offsets from property boundaries or areas of significant ecological value. The matters addressed by Mr Federici appear to consider only static conditions. GNS illustrate an active fault (Canoe Fault) that is inferred to underlie the site. Seismic loading may pose a risk of soil liquefaction and associated lateral spread into

the mining voids. Lateral spread may extend a significant distance back from a free face (in this instance, the mine face). Please provide additional information on the performance of mine batters under seismic loading and the associated risk of lateral spread.