

# Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

---

## MINUTE 3 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Correspondence to the Panel and appointment of  
Maitahi Village [FTAA-2502-1009]

20 May 2025

---

### Introduction

1. On 16 May 2025 the Panel held its second meeting to discuss a memorandum received from Counsel for the applicant, as well as correspondence from a third party.
2. Other matters dealt with included the appointment of a special advisor, and consideration of whether certain documents filed in support of the application should be published.

### Memorandum of Counsel for the applicant

3. On 16 May 2025, Counsel for the applicant filed a memorandum in response to Minute 2. The memorandum can be viewed on the fast-track website here:

<https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/maitahi-village/correspondence/>

4. As outlined in the memorandum, Senior Counsel for the applicant is now Alanya Limmer KC, and the Panel is grateful for the matters raised by Ms

Limmer. The Panel is extremely conscious of the strict time limits applicable to the procedures and decision making associated with this application..

5. Counsel sought leave for the applicant's ecology expert, and two further representatives of the applicant, to attend the Project Overview Conference. There was also a request for the provision of legal submissions to be deferred.

6. The Panel has considered the reasons put forward by Counsel and has decided to grant both requests. Mr Mickleson was asked to communicate this information to Counsel, ahead of the issuing of this Minute.

#### **Decision to withhold certain application documents**

7. The Maitahi Village application includes appendices 2.1 and 2.3, which are a cultural impact assessment provided by Ngāti Koata and a statement of cultural values provided by Ngāti Tama respectively. These reports are not currently available on the fast-track website due to confidentiality reasons.

8. The authors of these reports have indicated that parts of the contents contain mātauranga Māori intellectual property and have sought to keep the material confidential.

9. The Panel accepts that the request to maintain confidentiality of certain limited information is genuine and appropriately made. However, if any party considers that information contained in the reports is needed to inform their comments on the application then they may apply to the Panel for leave to view such material.

10. If any such application is made then it must be accompanied by

detailed reasons as to why the access to this confidential information is necessary. The reasons provided will be put to the authors of the report for their consideration and comment before a decision on the application is made by the Panel.

### **Unsolicited comment received**

11. On 12 May 2025 the EPA received unsolicited comments on the application from Mr Daniel Levy.

12. My Levy sought to bring concerns regarding the realignment of the Kākā stream to the Panel's attention.

13. Noting that comments on the application are yet to be invited, the Panel acknowledges Mr Levy's correspondence.

### **Appointment of a special advisor**

14. As outlined in clause 10 of Schedule 3 of the Act, the Panel may appoint special advisors to assist with a substantive application in relation to any matters the Panel may determine.

15. The Panel has identified that it would benefit from additional support for drafting documents, including the Panel's decision. Accordingly it has appointed Ms Carolyn Wratt from Wratt Resource Management to assist. Ms Wratt's appointment starts from 19 May 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Stevens', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hon Lyn Stevens CNZM KC  
**Maitahi Village Expert Panel Chair**