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## MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for the North West Rapid Transit Project  
FTAA-2511-1146

(4 March 2026)

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[1] New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 15 December 2025. The application relates to the construction, operation and maintenance of new bus rapid transit (BRT) facilities alongside State Highway 16 (SH16) from the Brigham Creek Road/SH16 intersection through to Ian McKinnon Drive in the Auckland City Centre.

[2] The application seeks approvals including an archaeological authority under section 42(4)(i).

[3] Pursuant to section 51 of the Act, the panel convener directs the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to obtain the following reports from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council (HNZPT and MHC) - a report under clause 3 of Schedule 8 for the archaeological authority (s42(4)(i)).

[4] The panel convener also directs the EPA to obtain advice from the HNZPT and MHC on the following:

- (a) How the weighting of matters set out in the relevant schedules should be approached, having regard to applicable statutory provisions and relevant senior court decisions (s51(1)).
- (b) If HNZPT and MHC do not agree with, or wishes to amplify, the expert and planning assessments lodged in support of the application,

they must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d)).

- (c) HNZPT and MHC may confirm and append advice, including legal advice, previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project and do not need to provide an assessment if they concur with the applicant's assessments.
- (d) HNZPT and MHC are to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

### **Timing**

[5] Reports and advice must be provided to the EPA **within 10 working days after the panel invites comments on the application**, in accordance with section 51(4) of the Act.

[6] Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).

### **Convener conference**

[7] Finally, it would assist the panel convener if the HNZPT and MHC are able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference, tentatively scheduled for late March.

[8] A separate minute for this will be issued in due course.



Helen Atkins

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