
MINUTE 4 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Request for Information
Mt Welcome, Pukerua Bay, Porirua
FTAA-2603-1181

(6 July 2026)

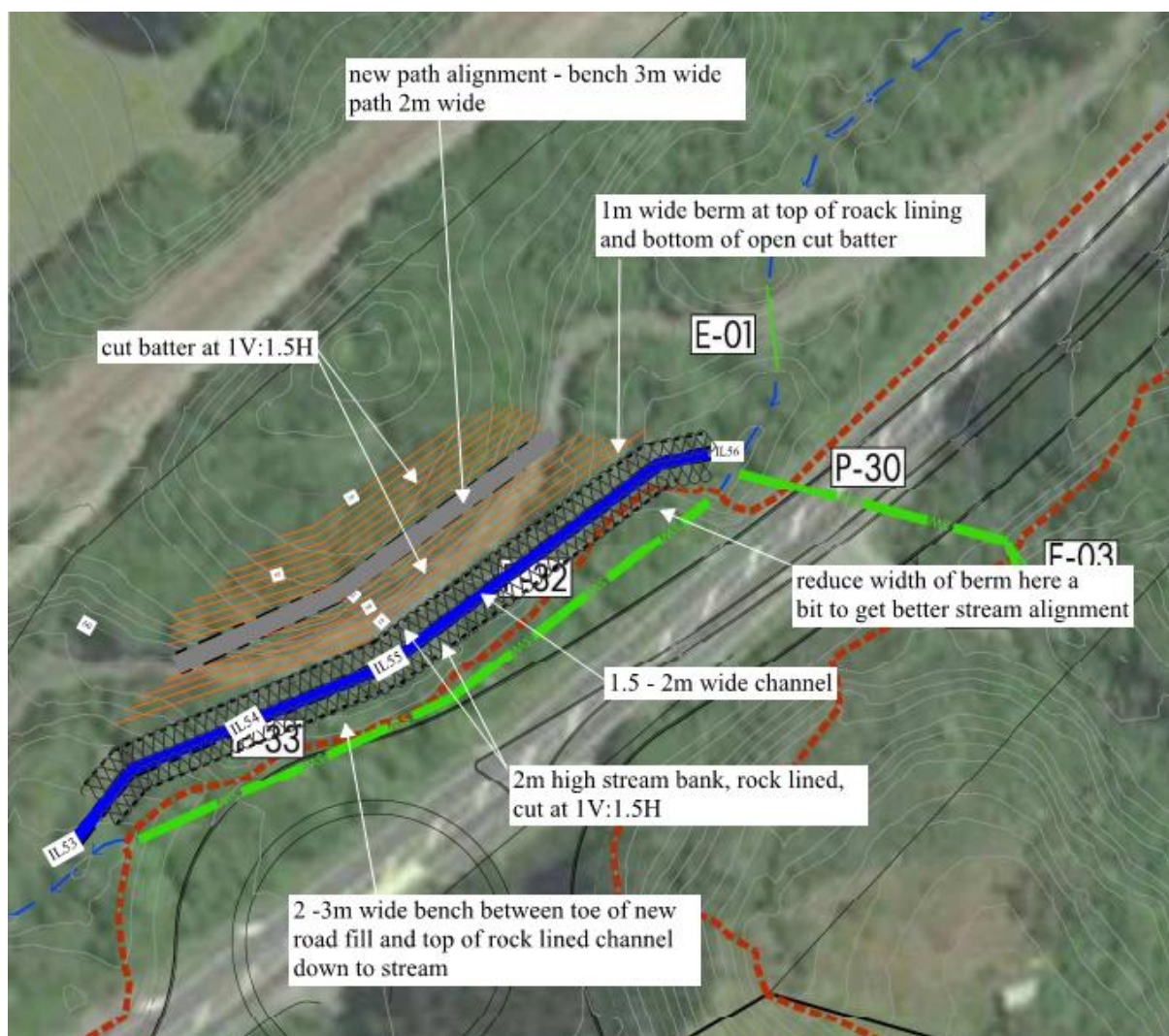
[1] On its site visit on 24 June the Expert Panel was able to get a feel for the relationship between the pathway, Taupō stream and State Highway 59 in the stream reach proposed to be culverted.

[2] Drawing on that experience, a preliminary review of the application material discussing the impact of the footprint of the roundabout works on the stream has raised some questions for the Panel.

[3] The Panel has noted the indications of opposition to culverting of the stream from Te Rūnanga a Toa Rangatira, and the length of the proposed culvert at over 100 metres raises obvious questions about the ability to provide for effective fish passage. The Panel has also noted that the culvert is not very much lower than the proposed roundabout and if the entrance to the culvert becomes partially blocked from large vegetation in the upstream catchment, the culvert appears likely to overflow onto the new road. These considerations suggest to the Panel that it needs to understand the applicant's rationale for the proposed culvert, and whether it has properly considered potential alternatives to it.

[4] As regards the latter, inspection of the landform in the immediate area of the proposed roundabout suggests to the Panel that it might be feasible to construct a realigned section of stream to the west of the proposed roundabout to eliminate the need for a culvert. This alternative option would also require realigning a section of existing pathway to the west. A schematic of this option is

shown in the image below:



[5] The scale of construction work associated with this option appears to be modest in comparison with the proposed culvert as the length of the works are similar, the earthworks involved are not likely to exceed 10,000m³ and the risk of blockage would be eliminated. This combination of factors suggests to the Panel that realignment of the stream might be found to have merit on proper examination and analysis, including after consultation with Te Rūnanga a Toa Rangatira, notwithstanding the additional SNA clearance that would be required.

[6] The Panel requests that the applicant advise if it has previously considered some form of stream realignment and, if so, what its reasons were for preferring the proposed culverting option. If the applicant has not previously considered

some form of stream realignment, the applicant is requested to provide an analysis of the pros and cons of the concept shown above, or variations thereof that the applicant's advisors might identify, relative to the culverting proposed.

[7] The applicant's response to these requests is requested to be provided to Ms Richardson at info@fastrack.govt.nz not later than noon on 17 July 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Robinson', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Trevor Robinson
Expert Panel Chair