
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

**Request for Section 51 reports for Wellington International Airport
Southern Seawall Renewal [FTAA-2510-1118]**

**Archaeological Authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere
Taonga Act 2014**

Wildlife Approval under the Wildlife Act 1953

(2nd December 2025)

[1] The application seeks approvals under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, and the Wildlife Act 1953.

[2] Pursuant to s 51 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**Act**), this Minute directs the EPA to obtain advice and a report from:

- (a) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (**Heritage NZ**) (and the Māori Heritage Council); and
- (b) The Director-General of Conservation (**Director-General**).

Specific directions to Heritage NZ and the Māori Heritage Council

[3] Heritage NZ and the Māori Heritage Council are to:

- (a) file a report advising how the weighting of matters set out in Schedule 8, Clause 4 of the Act is to be approached, having regard to relevant senior court decisions, pursuant to section 51(1) of the Act.

- (b) file a report giving their recommendation either to grant, subject to conditions, or decline the approvals sought; and
- (c) advise whether they disagree with or wish to expand upon the expert assessment lodged in support of the archaeological approval, they are to file a report accordingly.

[4] For the avoidance of doubt, Heritage NZ and the Māori Heritage Council:

- (a) may confirm and append advise previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project; and
- (b) do not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if they concur with the expert assessments filed by the applicant.

[5] Heritage NZ and the Māori Heritage Council are to respond to the draft conditions, set out in Part D.01 of the application, recommending track-changed amendments (if any).

Specific directions to the Director-General – wildlife approval

[6] The Director-General is to:

- (a) file a report file a report advising how the weighting of matters set out in Schedule 7, clause 3 of the Act should be approached, having regard to relevant senior court decisions, pursuant to section 51(1) of the Act;
- (b) file a report in accordance with schedule 7, clause 3 of the Act, if the Director-General disagrees with, or wishes to amplify, the expert assessments lodged in support of the wildlife approval.

[7] For the avoidance of doubt, the Director-General:

- (a) may confirm and append advice previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project; and
- (b) does not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if it concurs with the expert assessments filed with the application.

[8] The Director-General is to respond to the draft conditions, set out in Parts D.02 and D.03 of the application, including any management plans, recommending track-changed amendments (if any).

Provision of advice or report

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



Helen Atkins

Associate Panel Convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024