

File ref: FTAA-2504-1058

28 November 2025

Alan J Eggers
Executive Chairman
Trans-Tasman Resources Limited
PO Box 10571
Wellington 6143
By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe

Request for information from the Applicant in relation to the Taranaki VTM application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

The Taranaki VTM Expert Panel (the Panel) has directed the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to request further information from you under section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), relating to the Taranaki VTM application.

At the direction of the Panel, the EPA is seeking the information outlined in Appendix 1:

Supply of Information

In accordance with section 67(2) of the Act the Applicant must:

- a) Provide electronic copies of the information requested; or
- b) Advise the EPA, with reasons that you decline to provide the information or report requested.

Please provide the further information to the EPA by **3 December 2025**.

If the information requested is not received, the Panel must proceed as if the request for further information has been declined.

Please note, the information will be provided to the Panel, and every person who provided comments on the application. The information will also be made available on the Fast-track website.

If you have any questions, please contact Application Lead, Keely Paler by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz

fasttrack.govt.nz | info@fasttrack.govt.nz | 0800 FASTRK

Fast-track is administered by the Environmental Protection Authority
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Nāku noa, nā



Appendix 1:

1. TTR's substantive application (p 168) says "*Area specific reductions in benthic primary production (and thus carbon flux to seabed) could be reduced by up to 40% in the area to the east of the extraction area where the sediment plume moves over the relatively shallow (20 to 40m deep) sandy area, which is part of the Pātea Shoals and includes the Graham Bank.*"
2. In response to question 8 as set out in Attachment A to the Legal Issues Hearing Notice, TTR submitted that any effect on the climate of releasing seabed-stored carbon or reducing carbon flux to the seabed would constitute an effect on the environment which the Panel must take into account (excluding discharges of greenhouse gases into the air). However, TTR submitted that:
 - a. the science in this area is still developing and subject to much uncertainty and debate;
 - b. work of the sort that might be required to quantify effects of this sort has not been done anywhere in the world other than one experimental location in the Baltic Sea (which is not comparable to the current proposal) and otherwise via a theoretical global model;
 - c. many of the data necessary to allow even a first-order estimate of release of carbon from the proposal are lacking.
3. TTR is requested to explain the basis for the 40% change in carbon flux referred to in the substantive application and to provide any additional information that is reasonably available to enable the Panel to assess (quantitatively or qualitatively) effects on carbon flux and seabed carbon release, including if relevant the studies referenced in (b).