
MINUTE 11 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Expert conferencing
Green Steel [FTAA-2506-1074]
(20 January 2026)

Expert conferencing regarding the proposed Monofills

[1] As identified in Minute 9 of the Panel, the Monofills that form part of the Applicant's proposal remain a key focus in the Panel's consideration.

[2] The Panel considers that there are still matters that are unresolved regarding the Monofills and that its consideration of the Application would be assisted by expert conferencing. There are also concerns about the earthworks and related geotechnical issues.

[3] The Panel therefore directs expert conferencing to occur between the following experts in relation to the proposed Monofills, earthworks and related geotechnical issues:

- (a) Anthony Dixon (Panel expert)
- (b) Lindsay Strachan and Aidan Nelson (Applicant's experts)
- (c) Jonathan Caldwell (Waikato Regional Council expert)
- (d) Debbie Fellows (Panel expert).

[4] Panel Member Tim Baker will also attend the conferencing as will either Alethea Hikuroa or Tim Manukau as observers. The Panel's decision support writer, Analeigh Pye, will act as scribe and produce a joint witness statement (JWS) to record the outcome.

[5] The Environment Court's Practice Note 2023 (Code of Conduct for Expert witnesses) will apply to the conferencing (including the JWS).

[6] The expert conferencing is proposed to occur on either **Wednesday afternoon, 21 January or Thursday afternoon, 22 January 2026** subject to expert availability. The EPA will work with participants on availability.

[7] The expert conferencing will be held on-line to enable relevant experts to

participate at short notice. The Panel anticipates half a day will be needed.

[8] The specific matters to be discussed during conferencing are outlined in Appendix A of this Minute. Should any participants have updates or further information regarding matters in Appendix A, these should be shared via a participant statement prior to the commencement of conferencing.

[9] The participants should aim to produce a JWS at the conclusion of the conferencing, or by **5pm Friday 23 January 2026** at the latest. The JWS will set out areas of agreement and disagreement (with reasons) and will be provided to the Panel for consideration as part of its deliberations, and be made available to other parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Casey'.

Matthew Casey KC
Green Steel Expert Panel Chair

Appendix A - Conferencing Topics

Fire Risk

How floc waste should be covered to manage fire risk (daily and long term).

Whether there is sufficient quantity of cover material and if this can be demonstrated by the Project's cut and fill balance

Effectiveness of alternative cover materials (spray on and tarpaulins) to mitigate fire risk and leachate production.

Leachate

Confirmation of volumetric leachate predictions (can assumptions/experience be substantiated and checked). Including whether seasonal variations in rainfall have been considered.

Whether HELP modelling, or similar should be carried out.

Implications if leachate quantities are underestimated, particularly whether potential effects change, including cultural effects.

Liner selection

Whether liner selection process needs to follow NEMP 3.0 and implications.

Whether groundwater concentration assessments are adequately conservative, particularly with respect to conceptualisation of groundwater flow area.

Implications of underestimating contaminant concentrations at the boundary and how this could be managed.

Whether a double liner system would reduce potential contaminant losses.

NW Monofill

Considerable uncertainty exists around the NW Monofill and ability to construct in a way that minimises leachate production, maintains stability and doesn't impact other site development. How can this uncertainty be managed and are the potential effects of the NW Monofill construction understood.

Monofill Gas

Whether there is potential for the Monofills to produce harmful and/or explosive gases, whether typical 'landfill gases' or otherwise.

Whether some form of gas monitoring is required and what this would be.

Whether installation of a gas collection system is required as a form of redundancy/safeguard.

Monofill Capping

Whether Monofill stability needs to be demonstrated (via modelling), in particular to determine if stability is impacted by leachate levels.

Whether a maximum leachate level should be set as a consent condition and if so, what this level should be.

Neighbouring Land Effects

The scale of off-site effects of fill loading, dewatering and settlement, and how they should be managed.

Earthworks Balance and use of Unsuitables

Consent conditions to address earthworks balance and the use of unsuitables, with reference to the geotechnical reports presented.