
**MINUTE 5 OF THE KAIMAI HYDRO-ELECTRIC
POWER SCHEME EXPERT PANEL**

Response to Minute 2 of the Expert Panel

FTAA-2502-1024

27 January 2026

[1] The Kaimai Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Expert Panel (Expert Panel) thanks the parties for their responses to its request for information, set out in Minute 2, dated 17 December 2025.

[2] In this regard, on 16 January 2026, the Expert Panel received a Memorandum of Counsel on behalf of Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Rangī, and Ngāti Pango (Wairoa Hapū), along with the referenced Ngāti Kahu Hapū Environmental Management Plan 2011.

[3] These documents have been received and considered by the Expert Panel, and have been published on the Fast-track website here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/kaimai-hydro-electric-power-scheme-re-consenting/correspondence>

[4] The Memorandum of Counsel requests that the Expert Panel directs the applicant and Wairoa Hapū to “engage in an intensive, time-bound negotiation”. While the Panel cannot compel such engagement in the manner proposed by Counsel for Wairoa Hapū, it encourages the applicant to continue engagement with Wairoa Hapū.

[5] The applicant may, if it wishes, respond to the matters raised in Memorandum of Counsel. However, it is noted that the applicant will have an opportunity to respond to comments received under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 later in the process, which may include similar points to those addressed in the Memorandum of Counsel. Accordingly, it may be more efficient to respond to the Memorandum of

Counsel at that point.

[6] The Expert Panel also notes the ongoing negotiations with Pirirākau, as referenced in the joint memorandum of counsel, which is published on the Fast-track website here: https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/18749/RFI-1-joint-response-Kaimai.pdf

[7] The Panel requests that it be kept informed of any future progress towards agreement as and when required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Lanning', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gerald Lanning

Kaimai Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Expert Panel Chair