
MINUTE 18 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Invitations to comment: sections 70 and 72 of the Fast-track
Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA)
Green Steel [FTAA-2506-1074]
(26 February 2026)

- [1] This minute serves to invite comments on:
- (a) The draft conditions of consent from specified parties in accordance with s 70 FTAA; and
 - (b) The draft decision and conditions from specified Ministers in accordance with s 72 FTAA.

[2] The draft decision is at Attachment 1 to this Minute. The draft conditions are at Attachment 2. Once finalised, the conditions will become Appendix A to the decision.

Section 70

[3] Comments on **draft conditions** are invited from the following parties in accordance with s 70 FTAA:

- (a) The Applicant;
- (b) Every person or group that provided comments on the Application under s 53 FTAA;
- (c) Waikato Regional Council and Waikato District Council, being the local authorities with statutory responsibility to enforce or monitor compliance with the conditions.

[4] Section 70(2) FTAA requires that the draft conditions and invitation to comment must be accompanied by the Panel's draft decision for each approval, which in this case means the draft decision. The section does not however provide for any of the above parties to comment on the draft decision.

[5] The Panel would be assisted by the Waikato Regional Council and Waikato District Council including in their comments, any suggestions as to how the conditions common to both Councils can be coordinated. The Panel also draws the Regional Council's attention to Minute 17 seeking its comments on conditions relating to surface water take and dewatering activities.

[6] The Panel requests that with its comments on the conditions, the Applicant provide an updated monitoring plan for inclusion in the conditions, showing the location of sampling points for the sediment retention ponds, groundwater, leachate system, subsoil drainage system, and Waipapa Stream. This should be based on the figure provided by Jonathan Caldwell, as Figure 1 in his memorandum dated 12 September 2025.

[7] The Panel requires all comments to be provided by close of business on **5 March 2026**.

[8] Any response by the Applicant to comments, in accordance with s 70(4) FTAA, is to be provided no later than close of business on **12 March 2026**.

Section 72

[9] Comments on both the draft decision and the draft conditions are also sought from the Minister of Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and the Minister for Māori Development, in accordance with s 72 FTAA.

[10] In accordance with s 72(2), the Ministers are to provide any comments no later than close of business on **12 March 2026**.



Matthew Casey KC
Green Steel Expert Panel Chair