
MINUTE 2 OF THE PANEL CONVENER
Appointment and timing of panel
Auckland Surf Park [FTAA-2606-1246]
21 August 2026

[1] On 20 August 2026 I held a convener conference in respect of this application. The conference was attended by the Applicant and its legal and planning advisors, and a representative from Auckland Council.

[2] The purpose of this minute is to:

- (a) Summarise the views expressed by conference participants on the matters of panel composition and the timeframe required for the expert panel to deliver its decision; and
- (b) Confirm my decisions on those two matters.

[3] In relation to expert and panel composition and expertise, the participants' views can be summarised as follows:

- (a) The Applicant consider that it would be useful for panel members to have planning and urban design/landscape expertise.
- (b) Auckland Council noted that they had nominated Ian Munro who can cover urban design, landscape, visual amenity and transport. They recommend that there be two other Panel members, being an RMA lawyer and RMA planner.
- (c) None of the conference attendees consider it necessary to appoint more than the three panel members.

[4] I discussed my proposed Panel members during the conference and all the participants agreed that they had the requisite skills and experience for this application.

[5] In relation to the decision timeframe the participants' views can be summarised as follows:

- a) The Applicant recorded in their response to Minute 1 that a timeframe of 60 working days from the close of written comments would be appropriate; however, they have since advised that a 70 working day timeframe is acceptable to ensure that the Christmas close-down period is fully and adequately considered.
- b) Auckland Council agree that this timeframe is appropriate.
- c) Having considered the feedback received and following consultation with the Applicant and the Council during and after the conference, I have determined that a timeframe of 70 working days is appropriate.

[6] I record my thanks to all conference participants for their attendance and thoughtful participation.

[7] I am appointing the following persons to the Expert Panel to determine the substantive application lodged for the Auckland Surf Park project:

- (a) Claire Kirkman (chair)
- (b) Matt Lindenberg
- (c) Ian Munro (council nominee)

[8] I am satisfied that, collectively, the Expert Panel will hold appropriate expertise and experience in relation to urban design, landscape and visual amenity, transport, planning and law, and as required by the Act, te ao Māori and Māori development.

[9] The Expert Panel may wish to engage other specialist technical disciplines to assist them in their task once they have considered the application in detail.

[10] The date on which the Expert Panel will commence work is 4 September 2026¹.

[11] I recommend that the Applicant continue its constructive engagement with Auckland Council to identify or narrow issues in contention and confer on conditions.

[12] I consider that a timeframe of 70 working days following the receipt of invited comments is appropriate. This means the decision documents will be due on 16 February 2027 subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for inviting comments under section 53 of the Act being 18 September 2026.

[13] In setting this timeframe I have had regard to the following relevant matters:

- (a) The nature of the application and the range of activities for which approval is sought;
- (b) The participants' views on complexity and the likely issues requiring resolution; and
- (c) The possibility that some mechanism to resolve focused issues, or to workshop conditions, may need to be provided for by the Expert Panel.

[14] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Expert

¹ In accordance with section 52A(1) FTAA. Noting that the Panel will commence work in the week of 24 August and the 4 September date is the date that applies to commencement in terms of section 53 FTAA.

Panel for the Auckland Surf Park project after their appointment date.

Helen Atkins

Panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024