
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for the Hananui Aquaculture Project
[FTAA-2511-1138]

(28 January 2026)

[1] Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 26 November 2025. The application relates to developing a finfish marine farm, including—

- (a) 4 separate marine farms each consisting of 2 blocks of approximately 10 circular net pens
- (b) installing approximately 5 anchored barges as operational bases

[2] The application seeks approvals including:

- (a) A wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h)

[3] Pursuant to section 51 of the Act, the panel convener directs the EPA to obtain the following reports:

From the Director-General of Conservation:

- (a) A report under clause 3 of Schedule 7 for the wildlife approval (s42(4)(h))

Advice Requested

[4] The panel convener also directs the EPA to obtain advice from the Department of Conservation (DOC) on the following:

- (a) How the weighting of matters set out in the relevant schedules should be approached, having regard to applicable statutory provisions and relevant senior court decisions (s51(1)).
- (b) If DOC does not agree with, or wishes to amplify, the expert and planning assessments lodged in support of the application, it must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d)).
- (c) DOC may confirm and append advice, including legal advice, previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project and does not need to provide an assessment if it concurs with the applicant's assessments.
- (d) DOC is to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

Timing

[5] Reports and advice must be provided to the EPA **within 10 working days after the panel invites comments on the application**, in accordance with section 51(4) of the Act.

[6] Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).

Finally, it would assist the panel convener if the Director-General of Conservation is able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference, tentatively scheduled for **17 February 2026**.



Jane Borthwick

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