
MINUTE 1 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Initial Procedural Steps
Mt Welcome, Pukerua Bay, Porirua Project
FTAA-2603-1181

(18 June 2026)

[1] The Expert Panel has commenced work on the Mt Welcome application today, 18 June, and is in the process of familiarising itself with the application documents.

[2] The first procedural step the Expert Panel intends to take is to convene a conference at which the applicant will have the opportunity to brief the Panel on key aspects of the application.

[3] The two councils (Greater Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council), the statutory organisations previously consulted (Department of Conservation and Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga) and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira are also invited to attend. We have reflected on whether we should invite Muaūpoko Tribal Authority to this conference and like the convener, have decided not to do so. This does not indicate that we will not invite comment from Muaūpoko on the application. The Expert Panel has not made any decisions on that question at this point.

[4] The conference will be held on 24 June, commencing at 9am. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira has kindly offered the use of their conference room within A block of the Whitireia Polytechnic to enable the conference to be undertaken by a combination of in-person and on line discussion. Space will be limited and parties wishing to attend in person are requested to liaise with the EPA Project Lead, Jessie Richardson, whose details are below as to whether they can be

accommodated, and directions.

[5] The purpose of the conference is to familiarise the Expert Panel with:

- (a) the content of the application for approvals;
- (b) the content and structure of proposed conditions;¹
- (c) the key points of evidence (technical reports, assessments and other information) provided in support of the application;
- (d) relevant legal tests and legal issues in contention;
- (e) the planning framework applying to the application; and
- (f) other relevant matters.

And to discuss arrangements for a site visit the Expert Panel plans to undertake later in the day.

[6] During the conference:

- (a) the Applicant has an opportunity to present a high-level overview of the application; and
- (b) the Expert Panel has an opportunity to ask any questions about the application, noting that by the time of the briefing, panel members plan to have familiarised themselves with the documents.

[7] Participants should note that, while the Expert Panel will be reasonably familiar with the application documents, they will not have had an opportunity to consider matters in detail. There will be further opportunities in this process for that to occur.

[8] To facilitate the overview of the application referred to in paragraph 6(a) above, it is suggested that the Applicant provides a short PowerPoint presentation to Ms Richardson, no later than noon on 23 June, and then speak to it at the

¹ Including management plans, adaptive management protocols drafting style

conference.

[9] The details for the conference will be provided by Ms Richardson, and she can be contacted at: info@fastrack.govt.nz.

[10] The Panel anticipates that the conference will occupy most of the morning of 24 June. It plans to undertake a site visit commencing at 1pm that day. The applicant is requested to provide a guide and transport on the site, and to liaise with the councils and mana whenua regarding a suggested route, which can be discussed at the conference. The Panel notes that it would like to view the site from an off-site vantage point if there is one, but beyond that, is happy to leave identification of relevant points of interest to the parties.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Robinson', with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards.

Trevor Robinson
Expert Panel Chair