
MINUTE 8 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Parties' comments on Geotechnical Information
Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills [FTAA-2603-1178]
[26 August 2026]

[1] On 24 August 2026, the Applicant (NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi) provided its response to Minute 6 regarding geotechnical matters.

[2] The Applicant's response (**Geotechnical Information**) is now available on the fast-track website here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/alternative-to-the-brynderwyn-hills/reports-and-advice>

[3] Given that the Geotechnical Information was not provided as part of the Application material, and (at that time) would not be available in sufficient time for parties to address as part of their comments on the Application¹, the Panel indicated in Minute 6 that it would provide a limited further opportunity for certain parties to comment on the Geotechnical Information.²

[4] Since issuing Minute 6, the Panel has suspended processing of the Application at the Applicant's request. The suspension, recorded in Minute 7, took effect from 11:59 p.m. on 11 August 2026.

[5] The terms of the suspension granted by the Panel in Minute 7 expressly reserve the Panel's ability to invite comments on the Geotechnical Information during the suspension period.

¹ Invited parties' comments were originally due on or before 12 August 2026.

² Specifically, the relevant local authorities and relevant administering agencies and any other invited party who has engaged a technical expert in relation to geotechnical matters.

[6] The suspension has provided an opportunity for any party invited to comment on the Application to address the Geotechnical Information as part of their comments on the Application pursuant to section 53 of the Act.³ Any parties who have already provided their comments, who wish to provide additional comments on the Geotechnical Information, are entitled to do so by the same date as comments on the Application fall due pursuant to section 54 of the Act.

[7] Because the Applicant has not specified a certain date on which it will seek resumption of processing of the Application (and it is not required to do so under the Act), the Panel is not currently in a position to advise the parties invited to comment of the precise date on which their comments will now fall due.

[8] The Panel acknowledges the timing uncertainty created by the suspension occurring one day prior to comments on the Application falling due. For that reason, the Panel wishes to ensure the parties are prepared to provide their responses in the event that processing resumes at short notice.

[9] The Panel has directed the Applicant to provide an update on or before **28 August 2026** in relation to whether processing will resume after that date or whether a further suspension is requested.

[10] Parties invited to comment should therefore be in a position to provide their comments on the Application, and any comments on the Geotechnical Information, by **5 p.m. on Monday 31 August 2026**, being the date on which comments would fall due if the Applicant requests that processing of the Application resumes when it reports back to the Panel on 28 August 2026.

[11] Parties should note that this is only a timing indication. It is possible that the date for submitting comments will be later than 31 August, but this will depend on when processing of the Application resumes. In providing this timing indication to the parties, the Panel notes the undertaking given by the Applicant in

³ Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

its memorandum dated 10 August 2026 that, when it reports back to the Panel, it will ensure any suspension end point or future suspension period allows third parties to be given advance warning of the date by which their comments need to be provided to the Panel.

[12] The Panel will provide an update on timing as soon as it has greater clarity on this matter, following the Applicant's update report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MHill', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mary Hill

Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills Expert Panel Chair