

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act)

MINUTE 7 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Release of the draft decision and draft conditions
Waihi North [FTAA-2504-1046]

25 November 2025

[1] The draft decision (Including the proposed draft conditions) will be posted on the fast-track website this afternoon, Tuesday 25 November 2025. The draft decision and draft conditions can be viewed on the fast-track website here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/waihi-north/draft-decision-and-conditions>

Section 70 of the Act

[2] Section 70 of the Act requires the Panel to direct the EPA to provide a copy of the draft conditions to the Applicant, everyone who provided comments under s 53 and all relevant local authorities or statutory bodies. We direct accordingly. We must also specify the date by which comments on the draft conditions must be received by the EPA. We fix **Thursday 4 December 2025** as the date by which comments must be received by the EPA.

[3] As detailed in clause 4 of s 70, the Applicant must file any response to the comments received within 5 working days of comments close. The applicant's response to the comments received under s 70 is therefore due by **Thursday 11 December 2025**.

Section 72 of the Act

[4] Under this section, the Panel must direct the EPA to invite comments from the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and the Minister for Māori Development on the draft decision, including any draft conditions. We direct accordingly.

[5] We allow the Ministers 10 working days to comment on the draft decision, including as to the assessments made by the panel in relation to relevant Treaty settlements and any draft conditions related to that assessment. Comments from the Ministers are therefore due on **Tuesday 9 December 2025**.

Sections 74 and 77 of the Act

[6] The approvals sought by the Applicant include concessions under the Conservation Act and access arrangements (s 42(4)(e) and (l) of the Act). This engages:

- a) Section 74 of the Act, which enables the appropriate Ministers to call in those parts of the decision; and
- b) Section 77 which requires the Panel to direct the EPA to inform the appropriate Ministers of the decision we propose to make and of the rights they have to call in the decision.

[7] We direct accordingly.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Wm Young', is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Sir William Young KNZM KC
Waihi North Expert Panel Chair