

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 10 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Certification of management plans
Hananui Aquaculture Project
[FTAA-2511-1138]

24 July 2026

[1] The Panel is now in receipt of comments on the draft conditions, and the Applicant's response to those comments. The comments received can be viewed on the Fast-track website, here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/hananui-aquaculture-project/draft-decision-and-conditions>

[2] In addition to the matters addressed in recent Minutes, and any issues that may be raised in the comments from relevant Ministers (due today), the one substantive issue outstanding relates to which entity is to have the certification role for certain management plans. The Director-General of Conservation has stated its position in its comments received on 17 July 2026, and the Applicant's response was provided in comments received on 23 July 2026.

[3] Given the fulsome nature of the Applicant's response, the Panel wishes to ensure that any matters that the Director-General wishes to raise are before the Panel. The Panel wishes to make clear, however, that it does not intend to place any weight on those parts of the Applicant's submissions that refer to delay by staff within the Department of Conservation, or more generally how Department of Conservation staff have undertaken or might undertake any certification process in future. It would not be appropriate to place weight on those submissions without hearing directly from witnesses. Accordingly, the Panel does not wish to receive any response from the Director-General on those matters.

[4] Any response from the Director-General should be provided by **4pm, Wednesday 29 July 2026.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bal Matheson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bal Matheson KC
Hananui Aquaculture Project Expert Panel Chair