
MINUTE 13 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Bream Bay Sand Extraction Project Expert Panel [FTAA-2511-1150]
10 August 2026
Resumption of processing and timetable update

Notice of resumption of processing

[1] By way of memorandum dated 7 August 2026 the applicant has requested the resumption of processing of this application, effective from tomorrow (Tuesday 11 August 2026). A copy of the applicant's memorandum is available on the fast-track website.

[2] The Panel confirms resumption of processing will commence from and including **Tuesday 11 August 2026**, and notes that the application will have been suspended for a total of 49 working days.

Amended key dates

[3] An update is also provided on several key timings, set out below. These are important, as several entities were due to respond to earlier minutes within just a day or two of suspension ending. An extension has been granted to allow time for responses to be prepared or updated and lodged with the EPA. Other key dates looking forward are also set out below.

Applicant's response to comments

[4] The applicant has advised by way of its memorandum that it will lodge its response package with the EPA by the end of **Wednesday 12 August 2026**.

Responses to earlier minutes

[5] The timing of the suspension left affected parties with only one or two working days remaining to respond to Panel requests in earlier minutes (for example, Minute 8 and Minute 12). That timing creates a possible unfairness, so the date for responses is therefore extended to **Tuesday 18 August 2026**, providing five working days after recommencement of processing.

[6] Any party referred to in Minute 12 and wishing to participate in hui needs to respond to that Minute, particularly the matters listed in paragraph [8], so that arrangements can be appropriately attended to. The Panel acknowledges that several parties have already responded.

Decision timing

[7] The Panel's final decision is now required to be issued on or before **Thursday 10 December 2026**.

[8] This is based on the Panel Convener's provision of 90 working days following the receipt of invited comments for the Panel's decision making, which was subject to processing of the application being suspended.

[9] In accordance with the FTAA provisions, a draft decision must be circulated in advance of the final decision date, including proposed conditions in the event of a decision to grant (see sections 69, 70 and 72 of the FTAA).

Appointment of Ms Vicki Morrison-Shaw

[10] In accordance with clause 10 of Schedule 3 to the FTAA the Panel has appointed Ms Vicki Morrison-Shaw as a special adviser in relation to legal matters that affect, or may affect, the Panel's decision-making.

[11] It is anticipated that, in the usual course of events, formal legal advice received by the Panel from Ms Shaw will be published on the fast-track website with notice provided by further minute(s).



Catherine Somerville-Frost

Bream Bay Sand Extraction Project Expert Panel Chair