**MINUTE 3 OF THE PANEL CONVENER**
**Appointment and timing of panel**

**Redvale Landfill Expansion [FTAA-2608-1278]**

**10 November 2026**

[1] On 10 November 2026 I held a convener conference in respect of this application. The conference was attended by the Applicant and its legal and planning team, representatives from Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, Ngāti Rango Charitable Trust and Te Kawerau ā Maki Settlement Trust **(Treaty settlement entities)** and their Counsel, representatives from Auckland Council, and a representative from the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.

[2] The purpose of this minute is to:

(a) Summarise the views expressed by conference participants on the matters of panel composition and the timeframe required for the Expert Panel to deliver its decision; and
(b) Confirm my decisions on those two matters.

[3] In advance of the conference, I received written memoranda from the Applicant, Counsel for the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, Ngāti Rango Charitable Trust and Te Kawerau ā Maki Settlement Trust, and Auckland Council.

[4] Counsel for the Treaty settlement entities reiterated that they are the mana whenua groups with a strong relationship with the Redvale Landfill site. They gave a joint letter in support of the Project and refer to themselves as the mana whenua partners to the Project.

[5] Auckland Council confirmed (what the Applicant had stated) that there has been very good engagement between it and the Applicant such that the technical matters are well understood. I heard that time to consider the conditions was going to be an important consideration in this Application.

[6] I stated who the members of the proposed Expert Panel are and discussed the timeframes that had been set out in my Minute 1 and in the Applicant's memorandum dated 3 November. The only issue that was raised was by the Applicant regarding the proposed decision timeframe of 60 working days. I indicated that the Expert Panel need to ensure they have sufficient time to undertake all the steps in the process that are open to them, including expert conferencing, conditions conferencing and the potential to hold discrete hearings on specified matters. Any such processes will be discussed with the participants and commenting persons by the Expert Panel. I indicated that 70 working days was the preference of the Expert Panel.

[7] The set up and commencement date of the Expert Panel was also discussed, and I explained that the time between these dates can only be 5 working days. Therefore, the Expert Panel will be set up on 30 November with the commencement date of 7 December. The site visit and briefing from the Applicant an occur any time after the set up date and arrangements can certainly be made from 30 November. This would mean the invite to comment will be made on 11 January 2027 with the comments due on 9 February 2027.

[8] I record my thanks to all conference participants for their attendance and thoughtful participation.

[9] I am appointing the following persons to the Expert Panel to determine the substantive application lodged for the Redvale Landfill Expansion project:

(a) Richard Blakey (chair)
(b) Hugh Leersnyder
(c) Michael Parsonson.

[10] I am satisfied that, collectively, the Expert Panel will hold appropriate expertise and experience in relation to planning, resource management, and environmental science. I also confirm that as experienced environmental decision-makers, the Expert Panel collectively have an understanding of te oa Māori and Māori development.

[11] The date on which the Expert Panel will commence work (in accordance with section 53 FTAA) is **7 December 2026**.

[12] I consider that a timeframe of 70 working days following the receipt of invited comments is appropriate. This means the decision documents will be due on **21 May 2027** subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for inviting comments under section 53 of the Act being **11 January 2027**.

[13] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Expert Panel after their appointment date.



Helen Atkins

Panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024