
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER
Post-conference decisions
Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal
[FTAA-2510-1118]

(19 December 2025)

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the Expert Panel for the Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal (**Expert Panel**) project appointments, including the timing of those appointments, and the decision timeframe.

[2] A conference was held on 17 December 2025 for the purpose of informing my decisions on:

(a) the appointment of panel members;

(b) the timing of the panel decision.

[3] A list of persons who were invited to the conference is attached as **Schedule 1**. Schedule 1 notes if an invited person did not attend.

Appointment of Expert Panel

[4] As discussed at the conference, three experts will be appointed to the Expert Panel. I engage the following members:

(a) Myself, Helen Atkins – Chair;

(b) Mark Ashby;

(c) Ray O’Callaghan.

[5] As specifically noted at the conference, no participant considered that a panel member needed to have specific cultural knowledge or expertise. I am satisfied that, collectively, the Expert Panel will hold appropriate expertise and experience in relation to the matters set out in Schedule 3 clause 7.

[6] I noted that if the panel determines that it needs additional specialist or technical advice in relation to any aspect of the application they have the power to commission this.

[7] The time to release a decision –

(a) is set by the panel convener.

(b) if no time frame is set, then the decision must be released within 30 working days after the date that comments are received.

[8] Under s 79 (2)(b) A time frame set by the panel convener must:

... be a time frame that the panel convener considers is appropriate, having regard to the scale, nature, and complexity of the approvals sought in, and any other matters raised by, the substantive application.

[9] During the conference I was advised by the participants that there has been ongoing engagement which will continue to occur. I was also advised that there are further information matters for the Applicant to address and was informed that this would be attended to in the timeframes that were discussed and are recorded here.

[10] The date that the Expert Panel will commence, for the purpose of the section 53 commencement date, is **26 January 2026**. This means that by **10 February 2026** the Expert Panel must call for comment.

[11] With regards to timing of the Expert Panel's decision I note that:

(a) The Councils, responsible agencies, iwi representatives and Treaty settlement entities, and the Applicant have fully engaged and that further collaborative

discussions are proposed.

(b) Although the application contains significant experts reports and evidence it is not considered to be legally, evidentially or factually complex.

(c) The Expert Panel has the power to request further information and reports under section 67 of the Act and the power to appoint a special and/or technical advisor under clause 10 of Schedule 3 of the Act.

(d) Once the time for the decision is set under section 79 of the Act, I am not able to extend that time.

(e) The Applicant and other participants generally find the statutory timeframes to be appropriate in the context of this Application.

(f) From 20 December to 10 January there are no working days so the timeframes must accommodate this.

[12] I propose to extend the timeframe for the Expert Panel to issue the decision documents under section 79 to **45 working days**. This means the decision documents will be due on **15 May 2026** 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 **10 February 2026**.

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

[14] I thank the participants for their engagement and assistance at the Conference; it is greatly appreciated.



Helen Atkins

Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal Expert Panel Chair

Schedule 1

Organisation	Participant
Panel convener	Helen Atkins
EPA Application Lead	Daya Thomson
Wellington International Airport Limited (applicant)	Jo Lester (WIAL) John Howarth (WIAL) Kirsty O’Sullivan (Mitchell Daysh) David Randal (Buddle Findlay) Frances Wedde (Buddle Findlay)
Greater Wellington Regional Council	Andrew Banks Jessica Glover
Wellington City Council	Andrew Wharton Susannah Goble
Department of Conservation	Amelia Wilkinson Katherine Anton
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	Emma Clifford
Te Ātiawa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Pōtiki Trust	Lee Rauhina-August Ihaia Puketapu (invited but did not attend)
MfE	Michelle Flay
Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira	Ella Jaspers Hanita Dinsdale
Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust	Kara Puketapu-Dentice (invited but did not attend)