
MINUTE 1 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Project Overview Briefing and Information Request
State Highway 29 Tauriko Network Connections [FTAA-2606-1254]
3 November 2026

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[1] The purpose of this Minute is to provide a summary of the Project overview briefing the Panel received from the applicant, and to request supporting information from the applicant to assist the Panel in finalising its directions to the EPA inviting parties to comment on the substantive application in accordance with section 53 of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).

[2] The briefing was held on 2 November via MS Teams. It was given by representatives of the applicant (New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi) and its legal and planning team.

[3] All Panel members attended the on-line briefing, specifically Mary Hill (Chair), Roger Seyb, Gavin Kemble, and Don McKenzie (Panel), together with the EPA Application Lead.

[4] The purpose of the briefing was to broadly familiarise the Panel with:

(a) the content of the substantive application;
(b) the content and structure of proposed conditions;
(c) the key evidence (technical reports, assessments and other information) provided in support of the application.

[5] During the briefing:

(a) the Applicant spoke to a power-point presentation which is available on the Fast-track website; and

(b) the Expert Panel had the opportunity to ask questions of clarification about the presentation.

[6] The Applicant did not provide any new information which is not part of the substantive application and the Panel did not ask any substantive questions which led to the provision of any new information by the applicant. Rather, the questions and responses involved clarification of information already before the Panel.

[7] The Panel has some questions arising from the substantive application and the Project briefing. These are the subject of an initial request for further information from the applicant under section 67 of the FTAA, which accompanies this Minute. This initial request for information is for the purposes of assisting the Panel to finalise its directions to the EPA inviting parties to comment on the substantive application in accordance with section 53 of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024.

[8] The invitations to comment are due to be published and communicated to invited parties on 10 November 2026. In order for the Panel to make its final decision about invitations, and for the EPA to prepare the invitation letters, it is necessary for the Panel to receive the following information from the Applicant by **midday** on **Thursday 5 November 2026**.

[9] Accordingly, the Panel directs the EPA to request the applicant to provide the following information to the EPA no later than midday on Thursday 5 November 2026 pursuant to section 67 of the FTAA:

(i) a set of plans overlaying the Groundwater Take Assessment (Figure 5, Application Volume B: Appendix P) and the information in Appendices C-C7 (Application Volume A) to identify whether the identified adjacent and affected properties capture all the sites with existing bores within the groundwater

drawdown zone;

(ii) based on the Landscape, Visual and Natural Character Assessment provided with the substantive application (Volume B, Appendix J: Boffa Miskell 29 July 2026):

(1) identify the properties that could experience an adverse landscape and / or visual effect(s) from the Proposal that is minor or greater (before any remediation or mitigation measures are imposed); and

(2) provide a set of plans which overlay any properties identified in (1) above over the "Adjacent Landowner Plans" contained in Appendices C-C7 Application Volume A; and

(3) If there are properties identified in (1) above which are not on the Adjacent Landowner Plans, provide a table listing those properties by reference to the owner(s) names, the property address, and the property legal description.

(iii) Confirmation that no properties which currently obtain access off either of existing SH29 or SH29A will have their access impacted during construction of the proposed works associated with the Project.



Mary Hill
Chair State Highway 29 Tauriko Network Connections Panel