
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Minute following the Convener Conference on 3rd June 2025

Milldale Expert Panel appointments

Decision time-frame

Milldale [FTAA-2503-1038]

(6 June 2025)

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the Expert Panel (**Milldale Expert Panel**) appointments, including the timing of those appointments, and the decision timeframe.

[2] During the conference on Tuesday 3rd June 2025, I was advised by Auckland Council and the Applicant that ongoing engagement between the parties is occurring and will continue to occur. I was not advised that Auckland Council would have any issues with the timeframe for providing comments under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2025 (**FTAA**). I thank Auckland Council and the Applicant for this as it greatly assists the process. Heritage New Zealand did not have any to add to what the Applicant and the Council had provided.

[3] In terms of the membership of the Milldale Expert Panel the Applicant noted it would be useful for it to have planning and civil engineering expertise. The Council indicated that a panel member with ecological experience would be desirable. As discussed at the conference no party was seeking more than a three-member panel. With regards to ecology, I noted that is open to the expert panel to engage a technical advisor if they consider they need additional support in this area.

[4] I therefore engage the following members to the Milldale Expert Panel:

- (a) Daniel Minhinnick – Chair;
- (b) Alan Pattle;
- (c) Dave Sergeant.

[5] The date the Milldale Expert Panel will begin work will be 6th June 2025. For the purposes of the section 53 the commencement date for the Milldale Expert Panel will be 16th June 2025.

[6] With regard to the timing of the Milldale Expert Panel's decision the following is relevant to my consideration:

- (a) I note that Council 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) I am not able to extend the timeframe for the receipt of comments under section 53 FTAA as requested by the Applicant.
- (d) The Milldale Expert Panel has the power to request further information and reports under section 67 FTAA and the power to appoint a special and/or technical advisor under clause 10 of Schedule 3 FTAA.
- (e) Once the time for the decision is set under section 79 FTAA I am not able to extend that time.
- (f) The Applicant considers that the default time of 30 working days after the date of receiving comments should be extended to 40 working days.

[7] After carefully considering all these matters, subject to processing of the application being suspended for any reasons outlined in section 60 FTAA, and the date specified for receiving comments under section 53 being 10 working days after the appointment of the Milldale Expert Panel, I propose to extend, the

timeframe for the Milldale Expert Panel to issue the decision documents under section 79 to be 50 working days. This means the decision documents will be due on **7th October 2025**.

[8] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Milldale Expert Panel.

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



Helen Atkins

Associate panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024