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## MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Applicant expectation concerning timeframe  
FTAA-2507-1089

(9 December 2025)

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[1] The purpose of this Minute is to ascertain the applicant's expectations around the timeframe for a decision.<sup>1</sup>

[2] Under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, it is my function to set the timeframe for the decision (s 79). However, under the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Bill 2025, section 79 would be amended with the effect that the timeframe for a decision cannot exceed 60 or, possibly, 90 working days<sup>2</sup>, unless the applicant agrees to a longer timeframe.

[3] Pursuant to the procedural principles in s 10 of the Act, I am approaching prospective panel members. Prospective panel members are interested in the timeframe for a decision, as this is a consideration when determining their availability for appointment.

[4] I will hear from participants invited to the convener's conference on the timeframe for a decision. Based on the information before me, the scale, nature, and complexity of the application suggest that a timeframe exceeding 90 working

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the application lodged by Matakanui Gold Limited for a gold mining operation at Bendigo, Central Otago was provided to me on 8 December 2025.

<sup>2</sup> See FTA Amendment Act 2025 and Select Committee Final Report, December 2025. 60 or 90 working days commences from the date that comments are received under s 53.

days may be warranted. A preliminary assessment<sup>3</sup> indicates that a timeframe in the range of 110-120 working days may be appropriate, though I will be seeking views on this matter before forming a concluded view.

[5] If the panel commences on 2 February 2026<sup>4</sup>, the release dates for the decision are set out in the table below.

Working days	Date of decision
90	28 July 2026
110	25 August 2026
120	8 September 2026

### Directions

[6] To assist me when approaching prospective panel members, I seek to understand the applicant's views on an appropriate timeframe for this application.

I direct the applicant to respond to this Minute by **Friday 12 December 2025**.



Jane Borthwick

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

<sup>3</sup> Having regard to the volume and complexity of documentation filed including the 10 approvals sought, 22 proposed management plans and 10 sets of conditions. And, having regard to the complexity of decision-making under Schedule 5 and ss 81 to 85 of the Act.

<sup>4</sup> Subject to panel member's availability, 2 February 2026 is the indicative date for commencement.