
MINUTE 5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Site Visit Record

Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

(24 April 2026)

[1] This Minute records the site visit undertaken on Wednesday 22 April 2026.

[2] The Panel undertook the site visit on Wednesday 22 April 2026. The Panel travelled by helicopter from Hamilton Airport to Taharoa by helicopter with Mr Wayne Coffey and the pilot. Upon reaching the site, the helicopter flew over almost all of the site, circling over specific site features where the Panel sought more information. Mr Coffey described the site features and activities to assist the Panel in its understanding of the mining processes and stages.

[3] The helicopter then landed and the Panel attended a briefing presented by various site managers addressing both land and sea aspects of the mine processing and ship loading. The presentation focus was on factual details on the operation, not environmental effects of the proposal. Following the presentation the Panel toured operational areas to view sand extraction and processing activities, with details described and questions answered by relevant mine managers.

[4] The Panel was then taken by helicopter to the Taharoa Providence (ship) which was in the process of loading sand. The ship visit was brief but we were taken to the bridge to overview the entire ship and to the front of the ship to see how sand slurry was pumped aboard.

[5] On returning to the site the Panel then viewed the lower reaches of the Mitiwai and Wainui Streams, the dam, weir, fish pass and pump intake structures and an air quality monitoring station. On our return helicopter flight we also flew over the

southern wetlands which are proposed to be removed.

[6] No specific time was dedicated for lunchtime with hot drinks and sustenance being consumed 'on the move'.

[7] The Panel records that, with the exception of the information provided by Mr Coffey during the initial approach in the helicopter described above, operational details were described and questions from the Panel were answered by employees of the Applicant not associated the application.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Serjeant', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dave Serjeant

Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair