

BEFORE THE EXPERT PANEL

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by Taharoa Ironsands Ltd under section 42 of the FTAA for the Central and Southern Mining Block

APPLICATION NO. FTAA-2512-1153

**MEMORANDUM ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF
CONSERVATION IN RESPONSE TO MINUTE 15 OF THE EXPERT PANEL**

19 June 2026

Amy Robinson Project Manager Fast Track Consenting DOC Te Papa Atawhai PO Box 10420 Wellington 6140 Telephone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]	Sarah Ongley Barrister Telephone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]
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Introduction

1. This memorandum has been prepared on behalf of the Director-General of Conservation (D-G) by the Department of Conservation (DOC). It responds to Minute 15 of the Expert Panel dated 10 June 2026 in respect of the Taharoa Central and Southern Mining Block project (the “Minute”).
2. The Minute sets out the Panel’s direction for independent facilitated expert conferencing on the adequacy of the proposed offset measure to be held between the dates of 22 June and 17 July 2026.
3. At paragraph 15, the Panel seeks feedback on the matters covered at paragraph 15.4 of the FTAA Practice and Procedure Guidance Note as relevant, as well as the matters to be conferenced at paragraph 11 on the Minute. These matters are addressed in turn below.

Para 15.4 of the FTAA Guidance

The facilitator, if any, noting that conferencing could be facilitated by a special adviser appointed by the panel;

4. DOC supports the appointment of the proposed facilitator, Mr Steve Mutch.

Whether the conferencing will be held remotely or in person;

5. DOC’s preference is that there is no hybrid attendance at conferencing , so either all attendees are there in person or all are remote. DOC is happy with one or the other of these options.

The issues to be conferenced;

6. DOC agrees with the topics identified to be conferenced in paragraph 11 of the Minute, and has the following comments.
7. DOC notes that the scope of 11(a) by necessity would also include discussion on the adequacy and resolution of the input data for any modelling.
8. For 11(b), the policy evaluation is incorrect as it is based on underestimated adverse effects that do not account for different wetland types.
9. As regards 11(c), we wish to discuss the feasibility of the offset proposal in terms recreating the seepage wetlands that will be lost should the application be granted.
10. In relation to 11(d), DOC wishes to explore the proposed monitoring approach that informs adaptive management. Lag effects and gradual

ecological responses mean hydrological monitoring and associated triggers may not provide an effective early warning, with impacts on wetland vegetation potentially occurring prior to thresholds being reached and only becoming apparent over time, limiting the ability to mitigate or reverse those effects.

The timetable for expert conferencing:

11. Dr Catherine Beard and Dr Fleur Maseyk are available to attend conferencing 6 – 17 July (note Dr Maseyk is out of the country until 3 July).

The number of days required for expert conferencing.

12. DOC consider one to 1.5 days will be required for conferencing, noting the final Joint Witness Statement can be agreed via email following the event.

Conclusion

13. DOC confirms willingness to engage directly with the applicant, the Panel and its advisors as necessary to advance the progress of the application.

Amy Robinson

Project Manager, Fast Track Consenting