
MINUTE 3 OF THE PANEL CONVENER
Appointment and timing of panel

State Highway 29 Tauriko Network Connections [FTAA-2606-1254]

7 October 2026

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[1] On 28 September 2026 I held a convener conference in respect of this application. The conference was attended by the Applicant and its legal and planning team, and representatives from Tauranga City Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, the Department of Conservation, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

[2] The purpose of this minute is to:

(a) Summarise the views expressed by conference participants on the matters of panel composition and the timeframe required for the expert panel to deliver its decision; and
(b) Confirm my decisions on those two matters.

[3] In advance of the conference, I received written memoranda from the Applicant, Tauranga City Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, the Department of Conservation, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

[4] I record my thanks to all conference participants for their attendance and thoughtful participation.

[5] I discussed my proposed panel membership during the conference and all participants agreed that they had the requisite skills and experience for this

application.

[6] I am appointing the following persons to the Expert Panel to determine the substantive application lodged for the State Highway 29 Tauriko Network Connections (including Omanawa Bridge replacement) project:

(a) Mary Hill (chair)
(b) Gavin Kemble
(c) Roger Seyb
(d) Don McKenzie

[7] I am satisfied that, collectively, the Expert Panel will hold appropriate expertise and experience in relation to the Fast-track Approvals Act, and transport, engineering, and planning. I also confirm that as experienced environmental decision-makers, the Expert Panel collectively have an understanding of te oa Māori and Māori development.

[8] The Expert Panel may wish to engage other specialist technical disciplines to assist them in their task once they have considered the application in detail,

[9] I consider that the circumstances set out in clause 3(7)(c) and (e) of Schedule 3 apply, warranting the appointment of more than three persons.

[10] The date on which the Expert Panel will commence work is 27 October 2026.

[11] I consider that a timeframe of 90 working days following the receipt of invited comments is appropriate. This means the decision documents will be due on 10 May 2027 subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for inviting comments under section 53 of the Act being 10 November 2026.

[12] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Expert

Panel after their appointment date.



Helen Atkins

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