

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

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

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by Rangitootpuni Developments Limited
under section 42 of the FTAA for the Rangitootpuni Project.

APPLICATION NO. FTAA-2504-1055

**MEMORANDUM FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION
RESPONDING TO MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER**

15 July 2025

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Introduction

1. This memorandum has been prepared on behalf of the Director-General of Conservation (D-G). It responds to a minute of the Panel Convener (Convener) dated 4 July 2025 in respect of the Rangitooopuni Project (Project) [FTAA-2504-1055] (the "Minute").
2. This memorandum is in addition to that previously submitted on 14 July 2025.
3. This memorandum has been prepared to advise the Convener on a matter additional to that addressed in the earlier memorandum, being the possible need for an additional wildlife approval for the Project.

Wildlife approval required for long-tailed bats

4. The substantive application for the project has sought a wildlife approval only in respect of lizards.
5. The D-G has reviewed the lodged application and considers that an additional wildlife approval may be necessary for the Project to be fully carried out. Long-tailed bats are present in the project area and the proposed actions related to bats could reach the threshold required for them to otherwise be an offence under the Wildlife Act 1953.
6. The D-G wishes to raise this now as this is a new evidentiary/factual concern with the application, and the D-G considers the Panel may need to obtain further information regarding this potential wildlife approval to inform their decisions about the Project.

Issue (b) – Timing of panel decision

7. The D-G notes further information is required from the applicant regarding the proposed actions related to the long-tailed bats. If a wildlife approval for bats is ultimately required, this may impact timeframes for the Panel.
8. Options the Panel may like to consider:
 - (i) the applicant can contact the Department of Conservation (Department) and seek advice on next steps, which may include completing a wildlife approval application through the Department's standard process i.e. not through the FTAA. This is unlikely to delay

commencement of the Project and would mean this issue can be addressed without impacting timeframes for Panel decision-making; or

- (ii) If a further wildlife approval is required for the Project, the process in section 62 of the FTAA may be appropriate.

- 9. The D-G recommends that the timeframe for the Panel accommodate any procedural steps that may be necessary to accommodate these options.

Conclusion

- 10. The D-G's representatives will be happy to elaborate further on any of the above points at the conference set for 17 July 2025 at 10.30 am.
- 11. The D-G confirms a willingness to engage directly with the applicant and Panel, as necessary to advance the progress of the application.

E Komene
Counsel for the Director-General of Conservation