
MINUTE 14 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Memorandum from Director-General of Conservation Seeking Directions and Comments from Te Pouwhenua o Tiakiriri Kūkupa Trust

Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills [FTAA-2603-1178]

23 October 2026

[1] This minute addresses the memorandum filed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) dated 20 October 2026 and the response received from the Applicant by way of memorandum of counsel dated 22 October 2026. Both documents will be published on the Fast-track website.

[2] It also addresses comments received from Te Pouwhenua o Tiakiriri Kūkupa Trust on behalf of Te Parawhau Hāpu on 23 August 2026.

DOC memorandum and Applicant response

[3] The Panel notes that expert conferencing, and potentially a conditions workshop, have always been contemplated as possible procedural steps. If convened, such processes would involve parties who have engaged relevant experts or who hold relevant expertise, including DOC and the other administering agencies and local authorities.

[4] Consideration is also being given to whether the Panel would be assisted by the appointment of an additional technical advisor specialising in terrestrial ecology.

[5] The Panel will await the Applicant's response to the section 53 comments and any further information provided as part of that response, before determining the appropriate next steps.

[6] Consistent with the approach adopted in Minute 8 in relation to the geotechnical information, the Panel intends to provide commenters with a fair opportunity to respond to any new information provided by the Applicant, to the extent that is relevant to the matters raised in particular comments, where such a process is expected to provide information which is considered useful or necessary to the Panel's decision-making.

[7] The Panel may utilise its powers under section 67 of the Act for this purpose, or other options such as expert conferencing, a conditions workshop or (if necessary to resolve outstanding factual disputes) a limited hearing.

[8] Any decisions regarding further processes will take account of both fairness and procedural efficiency.

Comments on behalf of Te Parawhau Hāpu

[9] The Panel received a comment from Te Pouwhenua o Tiakiriri Kūkupa Trust, trading as Te Parawhau ki Tai on behalf of Te Parawhau Hāpu on 10 August 2026.

[10] The Panel observes that the comment was provided by Riripeti Norris, as "Trustee and Relationship Representative" for Te Pouwhenua (on behalf of Te Parawhau). In those substantive comments Riripeti Norris states that "*Consent by Te Parawhau Mandated membership to forward this submission (NZTA Fast Track application) on their behalf was received 1st July Hui 2026.*"

[11] The Panel has also received a second set of substantive comments from Te Pouwhenua o Tiakiriri Kūkupa Trust on behalf of Te Parawhau Hāpu, dated August 2026. That document is filed by Pari Walker (Chair) and Georgina Olsen

(Kaiwhakahaere) and include statements of evidence from Pari Walker and the technical experts.

[12] To assist with its decision-making, the Panel seeks clarification from both commenters (either separately or in a joint response) as to whether both sets of comments are made on behalf of Te Pouwhenua o Tiakiriri Kūkupa Trust on behalf of Te Parawhau Hāpu and how the Panel should consider the comments to the extent they might raise different issues or concerns, or provide different recommendations.



Mary Hill
Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills Expert Panel Chair