
MINUTE 5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Site visit & Mihi Whakatau

Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills [FTAA-2603-1178]
[4 August 2026]

[1] This minute addresses the upcoming site visit by the Panel, its Special Adviser, and Technical Advisers, together with the associated mihi whakatau that has been arranged in advance of the visit to appropriately recognise tikanga and welcome attendees onto the whenua.

Site Visit (Wednesday 5 August 2026)

[2] A site visit for the Panel, the Panel's Special Adviser, and Technical Advisers is scheduled for 5 August 2026. A brief record of the site visit will be provided in a subsequent Minute.

Mihi Whakatau

[3] The Panel has worked with its Special Adviser, Mr Troy Brockbank, on tikanga matters to help ensure that the site visit appropriately recognises tikanga and provides a suitable process through which the waewae tapu Panel members and advisers may be welcomed into the rohe and onto the whenua.

[4] Mr Brockbank has, in turn, engaged with the Applicant's cultural advisers to assist the Panel with its planning.

[5] A mihi whakatau has been arranged by the Applicant and will take place prior to the site visit. The purpose of the mihi whakatau is to appropriately clear the way

for the visit and provide an opportunity for Panel members and advisers to commence their work on the whenua in a manner that respects tikanga and enables them to participate comfortably in accordance with their own cultural practices. The Panel looks forward to participating in this important occasion.

[6] Importantly, the mihi whakatau is not intended as a forum for discussion of the proposal, cultural impact assessment matters, or the views of iwi and hapū on the proposal. Nor is it intended that mana whenua, iwi, or hapū representatives accompany the Panel and advisers during the site visit.

[7] The Panel acknowledges that, given the compressed timeframes associated with the Fast-track Approvals process, not all parties with mana whenua interests may have been approached or engaged regarding either the site visit or the mihi whakatau. The time available for engagement and preparation has been limited. The Panel nevertheless considered it important that a site visit occur before comments on the proposal are received and has sought to ensure that tikanga is recognised and provided for to the fullest extent reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

Future Engagement with Mana Whenua, Iwi, and Hapū

[8] Once comments on the proposal have been received, the Panel intends to arrange a separate hui at which mana whenua, iwi, and hapū entities who have provided comments on the proposal to present their comments directly to the Panel, kānohi ki te kānohi, should they wish to do so.

[9] As part of that process, the Panel may also consider whether any further engagement, including a site visit involving mana whenua, iwi, and hapū representatives, would be of assistance. The Panel, with the assistance of Mr Brockbank, will engage with interested parties in due course to determine appropriate arrangements.

[10] Accordingly, the Panel welcomes comments from mana whenua, iwi, and

hapū entities invited to comment on the proposal as to whether further hui and/or a site visit of this nature would be of assistance and, if so, how such engagement might best be undertaken. Those comments should be provided as part of their comments on the proposal, which are due on **Wednesday 12 August**. The Applicant will have an opportunity to provide a response to those comments as part of its response to all comments received on the proposal. The Applicant's response is due on Wednesday 19 August.



Mary Hill

Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills Expert Panel Chair