
MINUTE 3 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Expert conferencing & conditions

Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal

[FTAA-2510-1118]

(27 March 2026)

[1] This minute addresses expert conferencing and conditions.

[2] The Expert Panel thanks all those persons who commented on the Applicant and thanks the Applicant for its responses to those comments. There are a few areas which we would like the Applicant and the relevant commenting parties to further explore and report back to us on.

[3] **Contamination** – there is a difference of opinion between the Applicant’s expert – Ms Shepherd and those experts representing the two councils (Wellington City and Greater Wellington Regional – **WCC** and **GWRC**) who is Ms Rhodes for both Councils. We direct that the two expert’s confer and provide us with a joint witness statement confirming their final positions by **10 April 2026**. We do not consider that such conferencing warrants an independent facilitator unless this is requested.

[4] **Pāua and lobster / kōura** – there is a difference of opinion between the Applicant’s expert – Dr Meynier and the expert for GWRC – Dr Melidonis regarding the appropriate process to manage the effects on pāua and lobster/kōura. We also note that Ngāti Toa Rangatira as kaitiaki have commented on this matter. We direct that the two expert’s confer and provide us with a joint witness statement confirming their final positions by **10 April 2026**. We do not consider that such conferencing warrants an independent facilitator unless this is requested.

[5] **End-effect erosion** – there appears to be a difference of opinion as between

GWRC and the Applicant on the monitoring required on end-effects erosion. We direct that the Applicant and GWRC confer and provide us with an agreed set of conditions on this matter. If agreement cannot be reached, we direct that we are clearly informed of where the differences lie. We have included a general direction on the conditions below.

[6] **Stability of cut batter at the MCG work site** – there is a difference of opinion between the Applicant expert team and the experts for WCC regarding the conditions applying to the stability of the cut batter at the MGC work site. Similar to the direction for end-effect erosion we direct the Applicant and WCC confer and provide an agreed set of conditions on this matter. If agreement cannot be reached, we direct that we are clearly informed of where the differences lie. We have included a general direction on the conditions below.

[7] **Conditions** – many of the conditions have been agreed but there some outstanding matters raised by all the commenters, including but not necessarily limited to, those matters we have identified above. We direct that the Applicant prepare a final set of the conditions (i.e. a set that shows any additional changes in a track change format to the clean version of the conditions that were provided with the Applicant’s comments) by **10 April 2026**. We further direct that the condition set is accompanied by a memorandum that clearly articulates what has occurred in response to this minute.



Helen Atkins
Expert Panel Chair