24 September 2026

Environmental Protection Authority – Fast Track Approvals
Attention: Panel Convenor - Helen Atkins

Via email: info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Helen,

FTAA-2606-1254 NZTA State Highway 29 Tauriko Networks Connection Application – Convenors Conference Minute 2 Response

Thank you for Minute 2 from the Panel Convenor dated 16 September 2026 relating to the above project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

As requested, Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) has considered the content of the Minute and offer the following information which we trust will assist the panel conference to be held on 28 September 2026. This response largely follows the structure of Minute 2.

BOPRC Representative to Attend Panel Convener's Conference

Marlene Bosch will attend the panel convenors conference on 28 September 2026 on behalf of BOPRC.

Timeframe for a Decision

The nature of the proposal is considered to be reasonably complex, with multiple rules triggered with consideration to regional consent matters. Therefore, it is requested that the maximum timeframes be considered for the processing of this application and a timeframe of at least 20 working days to provide response on draft consent conditions.

Applicant Engagement

Prior to lodging the substantive application, the Applicant established a "Consenting Authorities Forum", which brought key parties together early in the process to understand the nature of the proposal, as well as review draft technical documents to support the substantive application across a range of technical matters.

While not all environmental effects and their associated technical supporting documents were consulted on equally prior to lodgement, BOPRC acknowledges that the Applicant has been responsive to feedback.

Environmental Effects

As previously mentioned, the proposal triggers multiple rules related to regional consenting matters. BOPRC have engaged the following experts (combination of in-house and external) to review and provide input into the actual or potential adverse environmental effects related to the proposal as detailed in the Table below.

Environmental Effects	Experts	Concerns
Engineering matters – • Stormwater management and flooding effects, • Erosion and scour, • Stream realignments, • Dust management.	BOPRC	No major concerns identified. Ongoing conversations requesting additional information are likely to resolve some initial comments related to flooding, erosion and scour mitigation measures through design. Expect can be resolved through additional information, further design refinement and consent conditions.
Contaminated land disturbance	Jacobs	Minimal concerns identified that can be addressed through consent conditions.
Terrestrial ecology	BOPRC	No concerns identified that cannot be addressed through consent conditions.
Freshwater ecology	River Lake	No major concerns identified that cannot be addressed through consent conditions.
Hydrogeology – • Dewatering; and • Groundwater take.	Pattle Delamore Partners	No concerns identified that cannot be addressed through consent conditions.

Following initial review of the draft technical documents, there are no fundamental issues identified that cannot be resolved or addressed through consent conditions.

Composition of the Panel

BOPRC provided their nominations for the expert panel on 11 September 2026. Primarily we request for Mary Hill to be appointed Chair of the expert panel. As detailed above, there are no major issues relating to the environmental effects relating to regional matters that we consider would require special expertise to sit on the panel.

Conference Preparation

We have considered Schedule 1 and 2 of Minute 2 and are prepared to discuss these matters at the panel convenor conference on 28 September 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Marcia Christian
Senior Consents Planner, Bay of Plenty Regional Council