
**TARANAKI VTM PROJECT
[FTAA-2504-1048]**

MINUTE 28 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Response to additional
information provided by
parties relating to the
Taranaki VTM application

(2 December 2025)

Introduction

[1] This Minute records information received by the Taranaki VTM Panel from parties.

Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (Applicant)

[2] On 21 November 2025, counsel on behalf of the Applicant provided two Supplementary Statements of Evidence.

[3] The first supplementary evidence, from Darran Humpheson, addresses the underwater acoustics matters raised by Dr Matt Pine in his Peer Review dated 9 November 2025.

[4] The second supplementary evidence, provided by Shawn Thompson, concerns the Joint Statement of Expert Witnesses: Benthic Habitats and Species dated 17 November 2025 (Benthic JWS). This statement provides additional information on two matters raised by the Benthic JWS, namely:

- (a) the brine and freshwater discharge components of the proposal, and
- (b) the mechanism by which the mining activity will create pits or mounds.

[5] The Panel has considered this material and decided to accept it.

Taranaki Regional Council

[6] On 27 November 2025, counsel on behalf of Taranaki Regional Council provided a memorandum confirming the case law in relation to the point of discharge for RMA purposes.

[7] This information was supplied in response to a question asked at the contentious legal issues hearing on 26 November 2025.

[8] The Panel has considered this material and decided to accept it.

SANOFEX report

[9] On 28 November 2025, Dr Neil Loftus, Chairman of the SANOFEX Group, provided an addendum entitled “Financial Model Assessment of the TTR Taranaki VTM Ironsand Project”.

[10] This information was submitted in response to question four of Appendix A to the Notice of Hearing dated 26 November 2025, namely: “*Is the project’s feasibility a relevant consideration?*”

[11] The Panel has considered this material and decided to accept it.

Mr. Mikaere statement on behalf of the Applicant

[12] On 1 December 2025, counsel for the Applicant provided a supplementary statement of evidence from Mr. Mikaere in response to the Treaty/Cultural Joint Witness Statement.

[13] Minute 25 of the Expert Panel directed the Applicant’s Treaty/Cultural expert to provide this supplementary statement by 4.00 pm on 28 November 2025.

[14] Although the statement was provided after the specified timeframe, the Panel has considered the material and resolved to accept it.

[15] The Panel directs that in addition to this Minute, the EPA includes the aforementioned material on the Fast-track website.



Hon. Kit Toogood KC
Taranaki VTM Expert Panel chair