
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Minute following the Convener Conference on 17th July 2025

Rangitootpuni - Expert Panel appointments

Decision time-frame

Rangitootpuni [FTAA-2504-1055]

(21 July 2025)

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the Expert Panel (**Rangitootpuni Expert Panel**) appointments, including the timing of those appointments, and the decision timeframe.

[2] During the conference on 17th July 2025, I was advised by Auckland Council (**Council**) and the Applicant that ongoing engagement between the parties is occurring and will continue to occur. I was advised that Council would have some issues with the timeframe for providing comments under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2025 (**Act**) due to the absence of a key team member.

[3] The Department of Conservation (**DOC**) also advised me, via a second memorandum dated 15th July 2025 that an additional wildlife approval may be necessary with regard to long-tailed bats.

With regards to these two matters, I asked the Council, Applicant and DOC to confer over the commencement date for the Rangitootpuni Expert Panel and the timing of the decision. I received confirmation from these participants that a commencement date of 6 August 2025 could be accommodated.

[4] In terms of the membership of the Rangitootpuni Expert Panel I informed

the participants of who I proposed to appoint to the Panel and no issues arose. It was clear to me that a three-member panel should suffice.

[5] As indicated to at the conference I engage the following members to the Rangitooopuni Centre Expert Panel:

- (a) Kitt Littlejohn – Chair;
- (b) Karen Kurzeja;
- (c) Nicholas (Nick) Manukau.

[6] The date the Rangitooopuni Expert Panel will begin work will be in the week of 21 July 2025. For the purposes of section 53 the commencement date for the Rangitooopuni Expert Panel will be **6th August 2025**.

[7] With regard to the timing of the Rangitooopuni Centre Expert Panel's decision the following is relevant to my consideration:

- (a) I note that Council and the Applicant have fully engaged and that further collaborative discussions are proposed.
- (b) I note that DOC and the Applicant will confer with regards to the need for an additional wildlife approval.
- (c) Although the application contains significant experts reports and evidence it is not considered to be legally, evidentially or factually complex.
- (d) The Rangitooopuni Expert Panel has the power to request further information and reports under section 67 of the Act and the power to appoint a special and/or technical advisor under clause 10 of Schedule 3 of the Act.
- (e) Once the time for the decision is set under section 79 of the Act, I am not able to extend that time.
- (f) The Applicant considers that the default time of 30 working days after the date of receiving comments should be extended to 50 working days. No participants took issue with this timeframe.

After carefully considering all these matters, I propose to extend the timeframe for the Rangitoo-puni Expert Panel to issue the decision documents under section 79 to 50 working days. This means the decision documents will be due on **27th November 2025**.

[8] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Rangitoo-puni Expert Panel.

[9] I thank the participants for their engagement and assistance at the Conference, it is greatly appreciated.



Helen Atkins

Associate panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024