

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE #6 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Unsolicited correspondence
Waitaha Hydro [FTAA-2505-1069]

16 January 2026

Unsolicited Correspondence

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to record the unsolicited correspondence received from non-parties and the Panel's approach to that information.

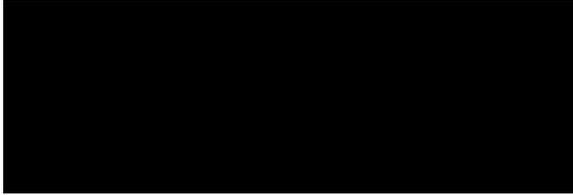
[2] The Panel received the following unsolicited information:

- a) an email dated 16 October 2025 from tramper/recreationist/rower Bronwyn Judd requesting to be invited to comment;
- b) letters dated 10 November 2025 and 17 December 2025 from the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand setting out concerns with the Application, the Applicant's recreation report and seeking to be invited to comment;
- c) an email dated 10 November 2025 from Eli Johnson offering to provide a copy of a film he and others had produced about the Waitaha River and the Hydro Scheme;
- d) a letter dated 26 December 2025 from West Coast photojournalist Neil Silverwood expressing concerns about the Scheme; and
- e) a cover email, media release and a report from Dr Shayne Galloway on 7 January 2026 reviewing the Applicant's recreation report.

[3] None of the people/organisations were parties invited to comment under s 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA), and no report was commissioned from any of these person(s) under s.67. There is no general discretion in the FTAA to accept and consider information which has been provided by persons who are not a party to the process. The public release or copying of this information to a party does not change this. It is only if the information is provided by or directly incorporated into the comments of a party to the proceeding, that we are able to consider it as part of our decision-making role. Comments have now closed. The only party that did so was the New Zealand Conservation Authority which included an excerpt of FMC's comments on the Applicant's Recreation Report. Accordingly, to the extent that the FMC information was incorporated into NZCA's

comments, we are able to consider it.

[4] In relation to the remainder of the unsolicited information, while we note receipt, we are unable to accept the unsolicited information noted above and will not be seeking views on it from the parties, and nor will we be considering it as part of our decision-making process.



Vicki Morrison-Shaw
Waitaha Hydro Expert Panel Chair