

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Waitaha Hydro [FTAA-2505-1069]

NOTICE OF HEARING ON 13 FEBRUARY 2026

Hydraulic engineering, fish passage, and fluvial geomorphology

Notice of Joint Empanelment Hearing

1. The Expert Panel appointed under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the FTAA) is considering the Waitaha Hydro substantive application to develop a hydro scheme in the Waitaha River to provide renewable energy. The scheme is described as a run-of-river hydro scheme with no in-stream or off-stream storage. A low profile weir and intake structure at the top of Morgan Gorge will divert water into a pressurised tunnel to a power station located below Morgan Gorge.
2. At the direction of the Panel, the EPA gives notice under s.57(3) of the FTAA that the Panel will conduct a limited hearing for the purpose of joint empanelling the expert witnesses in the areas of hydraulic engineering, fish passage (technical design), and fluvial geomorphology related to the Application.
3. The joint empanelment hearing will be strictly confined to these matters and is for the purpose of enabling the Panel to question the relevant expert witnesses in these areas. The scope of the hearing, hearing protocols and pre-hearing procedural steps that apply are set out in the attached Minute #8.
4. The hearing, which will be online via Microsoft Teams, is scheduled to commence on **13 February 2026 at 1pm**. The members of the Panel who will hear the oral submissions are Vicki Morrison-Shaw (Chair), Nick Eldred, Dean Chrystal, Tony Cussins and Josh Markham.
5. It is expected that the joint empanelment hearing will not take longer than half a day.
6. Should you have any questions regarding the joint empanelment hearing, please contact the Application Leader, [REDACTED] by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.
7. A transcript of the hearing and/or recording will be posted on the Waitaha Hydro website after the hearing.

8. Further information about the Waitaha Hydro application will continue to be posted and updated on this website at: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/waitaha-hydro>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vicki Morrison-Shaw'.

Vicki Morrison-Shaw
Waitaha Hydro Expert Panel Chair