
MINUTE 3 OF THE PANEL CONVENER
Appointment and timing of panel
Hunua Quarry Development [FTAA-2603-1185]
2 June 2026

[1] On 28 May 2026, I convened a conference in relation to this application. The conference was attended by the Applicant and its legal and planning advisors, representatives from Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

[2] The purpose of this minute is to:

- a. Summarise the views expressed by conference participants on the matters of panel composition and the timeframe required for the expert panel to deliver its decision; and
- b. Confirm my decisions on those two matters.

[3] In advance of the conference, I received written memoranda from the Applicant, Auckland Council, Department of Conservation and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

[4] In relation to expert and panel composition and expertise, the participants' views can be summarised as follows:

- a. The Applicant considers that a panel with the following skills would be well placed to determine the application: legal experience in Resource Management Law, previous quarrying/aggregate extraction project experience, planning expertise and landscape and

visual or ecology expertise.

- b. Auckland Council agrees with the skills and expertise listed by the applicant but suggests that planning and ecological expertise would be the most important, followed by landscape/visual and legal.
- c. The Department of Conservation considers it appropriate for the Panel Convener to appoint a panel member with relevant ecological expertise, including understanding of effects on freshwater, wildlife, and terrestrial flora ecological values.
- d. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga does not consider there to be a requirement for a person with archaeological experience to be a panel member.
- e. None of the conference attendees consider it necessary to appoint more than the default number of panel members.

[5] I discussed my proposed Panel members during the conference and all the participants agreed that they had the requisite skills and experience for this Application.

[6] In relation to the decision timeframe, the participants views can be summarised as follows:

- a. The Applicant considers that a timeframe of 45 working days from the close of written comments would be appropriate.
- b. Auckland Council, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT), and the Department of Conservation agree that this timeframe is appropriate.
- c. Having considered the feedback received and following consultation, I have determined that a timeframe of 50 working days is appropriate.

[7] I record my thanks to all conference participants for their attendance and thoughtful participation.

[8] On 22 June 2026, I will appoint the following persons to the Expert Panel to determine the substantive application lodged for the Hunua Quarry Development Project.

- a. David Allen (Chair)
- b. David McMahon
- c. Martin Neale (Council nominee)

[9] I am satisfied that, collectively, the Expert Panel will hold appropriate expertise and experience in relation to law, planning & policy, ecology, and, as required by the Act, te ao Māori and Māori development.

[10] The Expert Panel may wish to engage other specialist technical disciplines to assist them in their task once they have considered the application in detail.

[11] The date on which the Expert Panel will commence work is 29 June 2026¹

[12] I recommend that the Applicant continue its constructive engagement with Auckland Council to identify or narrow issues in contention and confer on conditions.

[13] I consider that a timeframe of 50 working days following the receipt of invited comments is appropriate. This means the decision documents will be due on 20 October 2026 subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for

¹ In accordance with section 52A(1) FTAA

inviting comments under section 53 of the Act being 14 July 2026.

[14] In setting this timeframe I have had regard to the following relevant matters:

- a. The nature of the application and the range of activities for which approval is sought;
- b. The participants' views on complexity and the likely issues requiring resolution; and
- c. The possibility that some mechanism to resolve focused issues, or to workshop conditions, may need to be provided for by the Expert Panel.

[15] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Expert Panel for the Hunua Quarry Redevelopment project after their appointment date.



Helen Atkins

**Associate Panel Convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act
2024**