

**Te Rūnanga o Awarua, Department of Conservation and Environment Southland,
Resource consent applications for the periodic opening of the Waituna Lagoon,
Kapuka South, Southland. (APP-20242456)
Minute #12**

1. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Minute #8, the Applicants' filed their reply statement on 12 September 2025, with Southland Regional Council (SRC) distributing that statement to the parties.
2. On 15 September 2025, the Panel was advised that submitter, Southern Star Farms, had responded to the Applicants' reply statement, noting that they were unsure if they could comment on the Applicants' Right of Reply. The Panel advises that the process does not provide the opportunity for submitters or the Council in its regulatory function (e.g. section 42A Reporting officer) to respond to the Applicants' Right of Reply. As such, the Panel cannot take account of any matters in the response from the submitter.
3. The Panel has now reviewed all the information provided and concluded that it does not require any further information. As such, the hearing is now closed as of today's date 22 September 2025. The Panel will now move to its deliberations and preparation of the decision. The parties are advised that it is anticipated that the decision will be available on or before 13 October 2025.
4. The Panel has been advised that the statutory timeframe for the application expires on 30 September 2025. To ensure sufficient time for deliberations and preparation of its decision, the Panel extends the statutory timeframe until 30 October 2025, under section 37 of the RMA. In reaching this decision the Panel has considered the interests of the Applicants' and submitters as to the extension, the interests of the wider community as to an adequate assessment of the proposal and the duty under section 21 of the RMA to avoid unreasonable delay, as required by section 37A of the RMA.
5. Any correspondence to the Commissioners should be directed through Ms Catherine Ongko (ResourceConsents@es.govt.nz), Hearing Administrator at SRC.



Mark St.Clair
Chair and on behalf of the Panel

22 September 2025