

Draft for discussion: Community Assessment Panel core competencies

Core skills and competencies of Panel members should include:

1. recognising common decision-making biases and minimise their impact
2. demonstrating impartiality and integrity
3. systematically and appropriately testing and questioning the evidence and decisions of others
4. assessing and weighing evidence fairly and appropriately
5. making balanced contributions and obtaining and clarifying relevant views from other panel members to increase the total knowledge available
6. using appropriate decision-making tools
7. formulating a reasoned decision independently of others the ability to listen effectively, distilling the key arguments and facts from the information presented
8. the ability to maintain objective neutrality (not jump to conclusions or predetermine an outcome)
9. understanding of Māori language, tikanga, history and cultural values (such as in cases where Māori heritage, tāonga, or ancestral relationships could be affected).

Some additional suggestions from the Working Group include:

The selected panel will need all of the following:

1. Members with a special commitment to Kapiti
such as being a long-term resident in the District, or a young person growing up here, or active in local environmental work
2. Members with analytic ability to evaluate potentially disputed evidence
such as expertise in science, engineering, economics, law, management, etc.
3. Members with experience in making long-term decisions where the future is uncertain
such as business owners, managers, farmers, etc.

The more strength the panel as a whole has in all of these areas, the better: thus, preference will be given to members with strengths in more than one of these three areas.