
MINUTE 18 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Request for Information from White Robe Lodge
Southern Link Inland Port FTAA-2604-1207
29 September 2026

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to request further information under section 67 of the FTAA from White Robe Lodge (WRL) regarding potential mitigation measures that could be included in conditions to address the potential for adverse effects on the foaling unit activities adjacent to the SLIP.

[2] The applicant and Mr and Mrs Stewart have advised the Panel during the Noise and Conditions Hearings that discussions are ongoing between them with an endeavour to reach an agreement to address the concerns expressed by WRL in their comments. The Panel encourages those discussions to continue. However, as part of our deliberations the Panel must still consider the comments from WRL, and what if any conditions may be appropriate to include in the approvals.

[3] With that in mind the Panel seeks further information from WRL.

[4] The Panel requests a response from WRL, by **5pm on 6 October 2026**.

[5] The applicant may provide a response to the information provided by WRL as part of the final reply including whether an agreement has been reached with WRL as part of its final reply and updated conditions by midday **9 October 2026**.¹

[6] The applicant's reply may include a statement from the applicant regarding the practicality the JWS recommended measures.

¹ As directed in Minute 17.

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[7] The applicants s55 evidence from Veterinarian Mr Andrew Grierson states that thoroughbred mares are bred from 1 September until around Christmas.² Does that reflect the practices at WRL? Please provide an annual timeline for WRL foaling unit operations.

[8] Mr Grierson considers that the use of floodlights is usual practice during foaling.³ Is that the case at WRL? Please provide details of outdoor lighting provided at the WRL foaling paddocks and unit, for example use of floodlights.

[9] In light of WRL concerns about animal welfare and staff safety in the event of sudden unpredictable sounds, what measures does WRL currently employ to protect horses (particularly Mare's and foals) from loud noises. For example, Mrs Stewart mentioned fireworks as a loud noise event at the Conditions Hearing, and the applicant's acoustic evidence refers to loud noise events such as boy racers, or rescue helicopter flights. What safety measures would WRL employ if for example the Council undertook roadworks on Dukes Road North along the WRL property boundary, or if hypothetically neighbours used chainsaws, hedge trimmers, etc to maintain or removed shelter belts or trees, or in the event of loud farm machinery or equipment during the breeding season?

[10] The Noise Expert Joint Witness Statement includes a number of recommendations that the applicant may employ to reduce noise in the vicinity of the WRL foaling unit, including:⁴

- a) No tonal reverse alarms in Exchange 1
- b) New hybrid and low noise plant to be prioritised at the northern end of the site.

² Statement of Evidence, Andrew Grierson, 19 August 2026, paragraph 4.2

³ Ibid, paragraph 4.3

⁴ Noise JWS Q4.1

- c) Provisions in the Noise Management Plan to require active and ongoing engagement with WRL to understand the timing of sensitive operations of most concern and apply additional practicable measures to mitigate effects even where there is compliance with noise limits.
- d) Possible limits on noisy activities on site likely to generate the 'surprise' elements of concern and prioritise low noise equipment such as straddles rather than reach stackers during sensitive periods.

[11] If these measures, if practical from the SLIP operations perspective, were employed would this provide some comfort that sudden unpredictable noises may be reduced at the foaling unit?

[12] Please provide the information to the EPA at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

[13] The Panel draws WRL's attention to the requirements of section 67(2) of the Act WRL to:

- a) Provide electronic copies of the information requested; or
- b) Advise the EPA, with reasons that you decline to provide the information requested.

[14] If the information requested is not received, the Panel will proceed as if the request for further information has been declined.

[15] Please note, the information will be provided to the Panel, the applicant and every person who provided comments on the application. The information will also be made available on the Fast-track website.



Cindy Robinson
Expert Panel Chair