
MINUTE 16 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Request for further information
Sunfield [FTAA-2503-1039]

(25 November 2025)

1. By Minute dated 5 November 2025, the Expert Panel (Panel) directed the Applicant to engage directly with Ardmore Airport and NZTA on specified issues, and to report back to the Panel by 14 November 2025.
2. A Joint Statement was subsequently filed with the Panel.
3. Item 3 of the Joint Statement discussed noise and reverse sensitivity. The Joint Statement records that a further memo from Laurel Smith of Marshall Day clarifying points of difference of difference with Jon Styles, was attached.
4. The Applicant expressed its disagreement with the process as the information (presumably the technical memo) hadn't been requested, nor signalled as a key issue in contention. The Applicant questioned whether it would get a subsequent right of reply (to the technical memo).
5. Given the divergence of views as between the Applicant and Ardmore Airport about the appropriateness of providing the Panel with the technical memo, the memo was not attached to the Joint Statement.
6. By email dated 24 November 2025, a representative from Ardmore Airport has subsequently written to the Panel inviting the Panel to request further information (being the technical memo prepared by Laurel Smith). The following reasons were given in support of the request:

- a. The Issues in Contention table dated 29/10/25 clearly sets out the issues in contention for the Airport. This includes noise and reverse sensitivity.
 - b. The discussion at the issues conference did not delve into these matters in great detail because of our desire to discuss these matters constructively with the applicant directly, which we subsequently did. Noise and reverse sensitivity remain points in contention, although the Airport is working with the applicant on the related conditions should the Panel be minded to approve the application.
 - c. The memo prepared by Marshall Day focusses on clarifying technical points and is three pages long. It does not rehash any points made in their original assessment.
 - d. The intent of the memo is to assist the Panel in their understanding of the points in contention on this matter, ensuring a clear and complete factual basis for their decision making. To my mind, this is more efficient than further expert conferencing.
7. Technical information that focusses on clarifying technical points in contention as between parties is of particular interest to the Panel. Rather than direct further expert witness conferencing, the Panel directs Ardmore Airport to produce the technical memo referred to in the Joint Statement dated 11 November 2025 as further information pursuant to section 67(1)(a)(iv) of the FTAA. The further information is to be provided by **1pm, Wednesday 26 November 2025.**
8. The Panel is mindful of the Applicant's opposition to the production of the further technical information. However, in the interests of ensuring that the Panel has before it, the best technical information available on which to make its decision, it makes the request.

9. The Applicant may respond to the further information (if it so chooses) by filing a response no later than **3pm, Tuesday 3 December 2025**.



Philip Maw
Expert Panel Chair