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## MINUTE 16 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Stormwater Disposal Assessment  
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024  
Ashbourne [FTAA-2507-1087]

(20 February 2026)

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1. The Panel gives notice in advance of the Ashbourne Draft Decision being released on Monday 23 February that upon receipt of the Applicant's response to Minute 14 a significant issue emerged regarding the stormwater discharge consents.
2. Having identified a concern with respect to the groundwater issues associated with Basin A in the residential subdivision component of the Application, the Panel sought advice from its hydrogeologist Jon Williamson on 15 February 2026.
3. The specific questions were as follows:

*Review the latest WGA memo dated 10 February, which was prepared in response to questions from the panel requiring clarification of a potential hydraulic conductivity error in a previous WGA memo dated 18 November, together with clarification of depth to groundwater used in stormwater disposal mounding assessment, updated groundwater level measurements, and revised mounding analysis results; Provide an opinion on the proposed regional stormwater discharge consent conditions, which do not include recommendations from the Joint Witness Statement.*

4. On 18 February Mr Williamson provided the Panel with his advice which concluded that:

*On the basis of the above findings, I currently have little confidence that the stormwater disposal basin will have the required capacity during the design storm events. Furthermore, the draft consent conditions provide no pathway for addressing the areas of uncertainty identified.*

5. A copy of Mr Williamson's report has been uploaded onto the fast-track website.
6. Given the onerous time constraints on issuing a draft decision involving a partial consent (due on 23 February), the Panel puts the Applicant on notice that until this stormwater issue is resolved (in respect specifically to Stages 1A and 2A) between the issuing of the draft decision and the deadline for responses to that draft (as will be set out in its further Minute on 23 February), the Panel is unable

to approve the residential component of the Ashbourne project.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sue Simons', enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

Sue Simons  
Expert Panel Chair