

---

**MINUTE 27 OF THE EXPERT PANEL**

Suspension of processing  
Sunfield [FTAA-2503-1039]

(24 February 2026)

---

**Request to suspend processing**

- [1] On 23 February 2026, the Applicant filed a request for processing of the Sunfield application to be suspended under section 64 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).
- [2] The Applicant has requested the suspension to allow more time to respond to the directions made by the Panel in Minute 26, issued on 20 February 2026. A copy of the Applicant's request can be viewed on the fast-track website, here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/sunfield/correspondence>
- [3] Pursuant to section 64(3), the Expert Panel (Panel) may, at its discretion, suspend the processing of the application. The Panel have considered the Applicant's request and decided to suspend processing from **11:59pm on 23 February 2026**.
- [4] Processing of the application will remain suspended until a request is received from the Applicant to recommence processing under section 65 of the Act, noting that the maximum number of working days the application can now be suspended for is 35.<sup>1</sup>

**Due dates affected by suspension**

- [5] Prior to the request to suspend processing being granted, the following

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 66(6) of the Act specifies that if an application has been suspended more than once, it cannot be suspended for more than 100 working days total. The Sunfield application has been suspended three times previously, for a total of 65 working days.

information was due to be filed on 24 February 2026:

- a. The Applicant's response to comments on the draft conditions under section 70(4) of the Act;
- b. Comments from the relevant Ministers on the draft decision under section 72 of the Act;
- c. An updated set of conditions from the Applicant, as requested by the Panel in Minute 26; and,
- d. Legal submissions from the Applicant, as requested by the Panel in Minute 26.

[6] As processing of the application has been suspended prior to 24 February 2026, the above information is now due on the first working day that processing recommences.

[7] For completeness, other parties who wish to file legal submissions on the scope question articulated in Minute 26 are to do so within 2 working days of the Applicant filing its legal submissions.

[8] All relevant parties will be advised once a request to resume processing is received from the Applicant.



Philip Maw  
Expert Panel Chair