
MINUTE 7 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Application to Suspend Processing

Ayrburn Screen Hub

FTAA-2508-1093

(8 January 2026)

[1] The Panel has received a request on behalf of the applicant dated 5 January, seeking that processing of its application be suspended from end 13 January in order to allow more time for an appropriate response to comments received under section 53 of the Fast Track Approvals Act (**FTAA**).

[2] Section 64(1) of the FTAA provides for such applications to be made and subsection (3) gives the Panel discretion whether or not to accept the request.

[3] While broadly expressed, the Panel must exercise its discretion in a principled manner having regard, among other things, to the purpose of the FTAA.

[4] The Panel must also consider the extent to which processing of the application should cease- whether for instance some steps might continue during any suspension. The applicant suggests that the Panel's own work, reviewing and assessing the application might continue, along with the expert conferencing directed in Minute 6 and confirms that it will meet the costs thereof.

[5] The Panel considers that the suspension sought (including the continuation of the actions noted in paragraph 4 above) is consistent with the purpose of the FTAA, given that it will enable the applicant to provide a more comprehensive and useful response to comments, and reduce to potential for the Panel to need to make further requests for information. It therefore grants the application to

suspend processing from 13 January on that basis.

[6] The FTAA provides that once granted, suspension continues until the applicant requests processing resume. In this case, provided such a request is made within 50 working days of suspension commencing on 13 January, the Panel has no further discretion.

[7] Given the reasons given for suspension, however, the Panel does not expect a delay of anything like that order to occur.

[8] The effect of suspension is that the requirement on the applicant in section 53 of the FTAA to respond to comments, and the requirement for the applicant, Queenstown Lakes District Council and Otago Regional Council to supply further information as directed in Minute 6 are paused. The Panel will confirm the revised dates applying to those actions when it receives a request from the applicant to recommence processing. As above, the Panel's own review and assessment of the application (including the comments it has received) will continue. Conferencing of experts should likewise continue as directed in Minute 6.

[9] Suspension also means that the conference the Panel foreshadowed in Minute 6 as being convened in the week of 19 January will be deferred. We will address that matter when the applicant requests that processing recommence.

[10] Lastly, interested parties should note that the deadline for the Panel's decision on the application under section 79(1)(a) of the FTAA will also be pushed out by the number of working days during which a suspension of processing is in place.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Robinson', with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards from the end of the name.

Trevor Robinson
Expert Panel Chair