
MINUTE #22 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Request for further suspension

The Point Solar Farm FTAA-2509-1100

17 July 2026

[1] By way of background, this Minute #22 follows Minute #20, which approved the suspension of the application until 20 July 2026, to allow the Applicant adequate time to prepare and submit a comprehensive response to the extensive comments received on ecological matters, and to engage further with s 53 parties on proposed conditions. That same minute also setting out the Panel's provisional view that the assessment of ecological effects, and the proposed effects management, remained notably deficient.

[2] This Minute #22, responds to a letter dated 16 July 2026 from Far North Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) requesting a further suspension of the processing of the application, to allow the Applicant to continue the specialist technical assessments and finalise a comprehensive response to matters raised in Minute #20 and to seek mana whenua's views on the cultural dimensions as to those same matters. The further suspension under s 64 FTAA requested is until 30 August 2026.

Suspension

[3] The Applicant seeks additional time partly because of the additional matters raised by the Panel in Minute #20, but also that the Applicant's, "... *independent ecological consultants have advised that it is simply not practicable to provide the above information before 30 August.*"¹ The Applicant further advised that it remains committed to constructive engagement with the section 53 parties. The Panel acknowledges that a further suspension will support the preparation of important inputs without

¹ Letter from Far North Solar Farms Ltd, dated 16 July 2026, Page 2

compromising the overall Fast-track timeline.

[4] Pursuant to section 64(3), the Panel may, at its discretion, suspend the processing of the Application. Whilst the discretion is broadly framed, the Panel must nevertheless exercise its discretion in a principled way, including by reference to the purpose of the FTAA.

[5] Having reviewed the reason for further extending the suspension, the Panel considers that granting the suspension sought is consistent with the purpose of the FTAA. A complete and robust response by the Applicant to Minute #20, as well as, the comments from the Department of Conservation and mana whenua are necessary for the Panel's assessment of the application.

[6] The Panel approves the suspension to 28 August 2026, (the 30 August proposed date is a Sunday). It requests the Applicant provide their response by 12 noon 31 August 2026. The Panel notes that Applicant's letter of 16 July 2026 confirms that the Applicant is comfortable for the Panel to continue reviewing the application material and taking such procedural steps as it considers appropriate to progress its consideration of the application during the suspension period.

Other Parties

[7] Minute #20 also sought responses from the Department of Conservation and mana whenua on specified matters with those responses due on or before 20 July 2026. In line with the Panel's decision above, that timeframe for a response from the Department of Conservation and mana whenua is extended to 12 noon 31 August 2026.

[8] Unless advised otherwise, processing of the application will resume on **31 August 2026** (being the first working day after 28 August 2026). Responses to Minute #20 and RFI #15 (dated 15 June 2025) should be provided by **12 noon on Monday 31 August 2026**.

[9] For completeness, the Panel records that the Applicant remains required to respond to RFI #16 (dated 6 July 2026), by **5pm on 20 July 2026**.



Raynor Asher KC

The Point Solar Farm Expert Panel Chair