
MINUTE 9 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Direction to Identify Key Issues/ Issues Conference

Sunfield [FTAA-2503-1039]

(20 October 2025)

1. The purpose of this Minute is to:
 - a. direct the Applicant to confer with parties and file a list of key issues in contention; and
 - b. give parties notice that the Expert Panel (**Panel**) will hold an Issues Conference to discuss procedural options to resolve / narrow key issues in contention.

Key Issues

2. The Panel would be assisted by the Applicant conferring with parties (i.e., those persons who have made comments on the application) and filing, by way of memorandum of counsel for the Applicant, a list of key issues in contention. Those issues should be grouped by topic and expressed as questions for the Panel to determine. The Panel suggests that the list of issues could be structured in the following way:
 - a. Legal issues in contention;
 - b. Technical issues in contention; and
 - c. Evaluative issues in contention.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel does not expect the list of issues in contention to be an exhaustive list, noting that the Panel itself may add additional issues in contention (if those issues are not already identified).
4. The reason why the Panel is making this request is to assist the Panel determining the next steps for considering this application. It may be appropriate for expert witness conferencing to be scheduled on some topics,

for topic-based hearings, or perhaps further information requests.

5. The Applicant is directed to file a memorandum of counsel setting out the key issues in contention, by **4pm, Wednesday 29 October 2025**.

Issues Conference

6. Following the filing of the memorandum of counsel setting out the issues in contention, the Panel intends to hold an Issues Conference. The purpose of the conference will be to refine the issues and make further direction(s) (if required) about the next procedural steps.
7. The Conference will be held on **Tuesday 4 November 2025, commencing at 9:30am**. It is anticipated that the conference will take up to a half-day.
8. The Issues Conference will be on-line, via Microsoft Teams. Participants are to advise the EPA by emailing info@fastrack.govt.nz of their intention to appear at the Conference on or before **12:00pm, Monday 3 November 2025**.



Philip Maw

Expert Panel Chair