
MINUTE 17 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Memorandum from the Applicant
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
Ashbourne [FTAA-2507-1087]

(20 February 2026)

1. In Minute 16, the Panel gave notice in advance of the 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 (following advice received from Jon Williamson).
2. On 20 February 2026, the Panel received a Memorandum of Counsel on behalf of the Applicant requesting a suspension of processing to allow time to consider these issues raised by Mr Williamson and for expert conferencing to be undertaken on this matter.
3. The purpose of this Minute is, firstly, to advise the Applicant that while it seeks a suspension to allow joint witness conferencing regarding groundwater issues associated with Basin A, there are other issues regarding groundwater/stormwater as well as other concerns that the Applicant may wish to address for its residential subdivision proposal which are explained in detail in the Draft Decision. The Panel considers that any conferencing to occur might benefit from the Applicant having understood the contents of the Draft Decision.
4. The second issue is that the Panel has observed that the relevant experts from MPDC have not been invited to attend the conferencing which may well be an oversight the Applicant might seek to remedy.
5. The Panel can confirm that Mr Williamson is available on the dates proposed.
6. The Panel is willing to direct a suspension as requested but is prepared to offer the Applicant the alternative option addressed in paragraph 3 above.



Sue Simons
Expert Panel Chair