

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE #5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Suspension of Application under section 64 FTAA
Haldon Solar [FTAA-2508-1097]

24 February 2026

Request to suspend processing the application

[1] By Letter dated 23 February 2026, and in accordance with section 64(1) of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA), the Applicant has made a written request to the EPA that the processing of the substantive application be suspended through to 31 March 2026.

[2] The suspension was sought to ensure that the Applicant has sufficient time to respond to the request for further information (RFI) issued by the Panel on 16 February 2026. The response to the RFI entails additional surveys and investigations which are expected to be completed by 31 March 2026.

[3] Pursuant to section 64(3), the Expert Panel (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.

[4] Having considered the reasons for the requested suspension, the Panel considers that granting the suspension sought is consistent with the purpose of the FTAA. The further surveys and investigations are considered material to its decision.

[5] The Applicant has requested that, at this time, the suspension would be for a period of 26 working days. Unless advised otherwise, processing of the application will resume on 1 April 2026.

- [6] In accordance with section 64 of the FTAA, the Panel grants the request to suspend processing of the substantive application, effective from Tuesday 24 February 2026 through to 31 March 2026. The Panel authorises the EPA to give notice of this decision to the Applicant, and all persons or groups invited to provide comment under section 53 of the FTAA.
- [7] Lodestone confirms that it is comfortable for the Panel to continue reviewing the Application material during the pause period and to issue any procedural directions it considers appropriate.
- [8] The Panel would benefit from receiving the completed portions of the RFI response in the interim



Hon Raynor Asher KC
Haldon Solar Expert Panel Chair