

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 9 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Pound Road Industrial Development [FTAA-2505-1057]

16 January 2026

[1] In a minute dated 15 January 2026 the Panel directed NZTA, CCC and KiwiRail to identify the remaining matters of disagreement between them and the Applicant relating to transportation matters by 12pm Monday 19 January 2026.

[2] The minute went on to say that a brief explanation of the reasons for the position would assist – citing the level of detail supplied by the Applicant in a memorandum it had filed.

[3] Later on 15 January the Panel were provided with an email from NZTA as follows:

While we have no quibble with the applicant's view of outstanding matters as set out in their transportation memo and your minute 8 – the Monday Midday deadline for a formal response is unrealistic.

Close of Business [sic] by 22/01/2022; would enable us to put together a formal response

[4] No other information was provided to support the request.

[5] The Panel is surprised, given the level of detail it has signalled it is seeking, that the timeframe it has set is not achievable for NZTA. For the avoidance

of doubt therefore the Panel signals that it is not seeking detailed analysis of the parties' position, merely a summary on what the issues are, with a *brief* explanation. Depending on the number and nature of any issues still outstanding, the Panel will then determine how best to resolve any matters still in dispute or of concern to it, for instance, through expert conferencing, evidence exchange or a short, focussed, hearing. We emphasise however that we have not formed a view on the process at this time.

- [6] Nonetheless, the Panel is prepared to enlarge the time for the parties to respond to **Tuesday 20 January 2026**. The reasons for the enlargement are set out at paragraph 9 of Minute 8; in short, the timeframes for next steps under the FTAA are fast approaching and, thus, the time available to the Panel to perform its functions is short.



Chris Thomsen
Pound Road Industrial Development Expert Panel Chair