

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 15 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Pound Road Industrial Development [FTAA-2505-1057]

5 March 2026

- [1] By memorandum dated 4 March 2026 the Applicant requested resumption of the processing of the Application, ending the suspension that had been in place.
- [2] This minute addresses the possibility of a further suspension on account of logistical constraints faced by the Panel and responds to a query from the Applicant to the EPA.
- [3] Dealing first with the query to EPA, the Panel has now received evidence and legal submissions from NZTA and CCC in response to the matters arising at and from the Transportation Conference (refer e.g. Minute 14). We understand the Applicant has asked EPA if the Panel intends on allowing it the opportunity to reply to that evidence and submissions.
- [4] Bearing in mind that much of the information has only very recently been received and, as such, requires further thought and analysis, it is the Panel's initial view that it has all the information it requires to make a decision.¹
- [5] However, if the Applicant wishes to have the opportunity to file further evidence or submissions in reply, we would be likely to grant an application

¹ Subject to the further statutory steps under the FTAA.

for it to do. We invite the Applicant to consider further and make an application should it wish to do so.

- [6] Turning to a further suspension, at the outset, the Panel records its understanding that any further suspension is at the discretion of the Applicant.
- [7] Subject to hearing from the Applicant on any evidence or submissions in reply, the Panel can signal it wishes to have the opportunity to meet and deliberate on, mainly, transportation-related matters as soon as possible. However, one panel member is unavailable to do so until early in the week of 9 March. The deliberation session is therefore tentatively scheduled (at our first opportunity) for Wednesday morning and Thursday (if required) next week but is dependent on a further suspension.
- [8] A suspension until 12am Friday 13 March would allow for the deliberation day/s and then time for the Panel to finish the draft conditions and/or decision. It is projected the drafts would then be circulated for comment on or about 20 March 2026.
- [9] The Applicant is invited to consider the issues.



Chris Thomsen

Pound Road Industrial Development Expert Panel Chair