
MINUTE 12 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Suspension

Mt Welcome, Pukerua Bay, Porirua Project

FTAA-2603-1181

(14 August 2026)

[1] The applicant has sought that processing of the application be suspended.

[2] The Panel considers that a brief suspension would be helpful. As set out in the memorandum of counsel for the applicant, it is important to allow sufficient time for conferencing to either resolve or narrow the matters in contention as far as possible.

[3] It is also helpful that the applicant agrees that conferencing proceed with urgency, as already planned, and that both the Panel and the EPA might continue work assessing the application and the comments that have been received from interested parties.

[4] The Panel therefore exercises its discretion under section 64(3) of the FTAA to grant suspension of processing the application effective midnight on 14 August 2026.

[5] While all current Panel directions are therefore suspended, the Panel requests that expert conferencing in particular proceeds this coming week. We will issue a separate Minute shortly regarding additional conferencing that we consider will assist the Panel once processing resumes.

[6] We note that Dr Fea has advised that she does not think she can make a

material contribution to the freshwater ecology discussion. We understand that Porirua City Council is relaxed if she does not attend conferencing on that subset of ecological issues, and on that basis we vary our expert conferencing directions accordingly.

[7] The length of suspension is now a matter for the applicant. The Panel notes the applicant's advice that it envisages that suspension will likely last no more than one or two weeks.

[8] The Panel will issue a Minute following resumption of processing confirming the timing for all outstanding actions

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Robinson', with a large loop and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor Robinson
Expert Panel Chair