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## MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Minute following the Convener Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Sunfield Expert Panel appointments

Decision time-frame

Sunfield [FTAA-2503-1039]

(10 June 2025)

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[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the Expert Panel (**Sunfield Expert Panel**) appointments, including the timing of those appointments, and the decision timeframe.

During the conference on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025, I had received memoranda from the Auckland Council (**Council**) and the Applicant advising me that engagement had commenced. Council indicated that it would have some matters that it will be seeking information from the Applicant about and the intention is to provide these to the Applicant by 13 June. The Applicant welcomed an early indication of the issues from the Council.

I was not specifically advised that Auckland Council would have any issues with the timeframe for providing comments under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2025 (**Act**) but it was noted that it may be necessary for the Sunfield Expert Panel to exercise the power under section 67 of the Act to request further information or reports.

[2] In terms of the membership of the Sunfield Expert Panel the Applicant provided some indication of the expertise and experience it considered beneficial. The Council did not provide any specific feedback on this matter. As discussed at

the conference no party was seeking more than a three-member panel.

As indicated at the conference I engage the following members to the Sunfield Expert Panel:

- (a) Philip Maw – Chair;
- (b) Lee Beattie;
- (c) Vaughan Smith.

[3] The date the Sunfield Expert Panel will begin work will be 9 June 2025. For the purposes of section 53 the commencement date for the Sunfield Expert Panel will be **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**.

[4] With regard to the timing of the Sunfield Expert Panel's decision the following is relevant to my consideration:

- (a) I note that Council and the Applicant have begun engagement and there is further work to be done but both parties indicated a willingness to engage.
- (b) The application contains significant experts reports and evidence and while it is not necessarily legally, evidentially or factually complex the Council requested that time is provided to allow for conferencing and expert meetings. However, there are some complexities with regards to the zoning of the land.
- (c) I informed the participants that I have received a letter from the New Zealand Transport Agency specifically requesting that I bring its interest in this application to the attention of the Panel in terms of the invitation to comment that the Panel must issue. This letter is attached as **Appendix 1** and I confirm that it has been brought to the Panel's attention.
- (d) The Applicant sought a longer time to reply to the comments received under section 53 but as noted neither I, nor the Panel, have the ability to extend the timeframe for the receipt of the Applicant's reply to the

comments under section 55 of the Act.

- (e) I further noted that the Sunfield Expert Panel has the power to request further information and reports under section 67 of the Act and the power to appoint a special and/or technical advisor under clause 10 of Schedule 3 of the Act.
- (f) Once the time for the decision is set under section 79 of the Act, I am not able to extend that time.
- (g) The Applicant considers that the default time of 30 working days after the date of receiving comments should be extended to 50 working days.
- (h) The Council is of the view that sufficient time needs to be provided to address the issues it raised at the conference.

[5] After carefully considering all these matters, I propose to extend the timeframe for the Sunfield Expert Panel to issue the decision documents under section 79 to be 71 working days. This means the decision documents will be due on **12<sup>th</sup> November 2025** subject to the processing of the application being suspended for any reasons outlined in section 60 FTAA, and the date specified for receiving comments under section 53 being 7 July 2025.

[6] In terms of next steps the participants will be contacted by the Sunfield Expert Panel.

[7] I thank the participants for their engagement and assistance at the Conference, it is greatly appreciated.



Helen Atkins  
Associate panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024