
MINUTE 26 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Response to Applicant's Memorandum of 3 September 2026 on the
Proposed Air Quality Review
Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

(8 September 2026)

- [1] The Panel has received and considered the Memorandum of counsel for the Applicant dated 3 September 2026 (**the Memorandum**) objecting to the Panel's decision to commission a report regarding PM₁₀ discharges and associated potential adverse health effects (**the Report**).
- [2] The Panel's decision to commission the Report stands.
- [3] The Panel rejects the allegation of predetermination in the Memorandum.
- [4] As advised in Minute 25, the Panel is in a relatively advanced stage of its deliberations and decision-making process. The Report is being commissioned to ensure that the Panel has available to it information on the scale and significance of PM₁₀ discharges to air, and a robust and independent opinion on the potential adverse health effects of those discharges.
- [5] The Panel considers that it does not have adequate information to determine the degree and extent of potential adverse effects on the evidence currently before it. This is a matter of judgement for the Panel to make, not the Applicant.
- [6] In short, the scale and significance of the effect in question has not been determined, nor predetermined – that is precisely why the Report is being commissioned.
- [7] The Panel also rejects the Memorandum's characterisation of the Panel's response to the previous RFI on PM₁₀ discharges to air. Information was sought but not provided or received for the reasons given by Mr Curtis. It is the statute that directs the Panel to proceed as if the RFI had been declined (s 67(6) of the Act).
- [8] The Panel disagrees that the timing of commissioning the Report would be disruptive. All other current work streams would be unaffected, allowing for the Applicant to respond to the Report once received, alongside the information requested in Minutes 22 and 24 and the outputs of further expert conferencing.

- [9] The Panel requires the Applicant to confirm by 5pm 9 September 2026 that the independent air quality reviewer's task will be enabled by the Applicant facilitating a site visit and having access to Mr Curtis for obtaining relevant information, if needed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Serjeant', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dave Serjeant

Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair