

To the Expert Panel:

- 1 This memorandum is filed on behalf of the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi ('**NZTA**') in relation to NZTA's application for approvals ('**Application**') to construct, operate and maintain the State Highway 1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus) ('**B2P**' or 'the **Project**').
- 2 NZTA respectfully requests the Expert Panel to exercise its discretion to briefly suspend processing of the Application in accordance with section 64 of the FTAA. NZTA seeks that the suspension be effective from Monday 11 May 2026 for four working days, with processing resuming on Friday 15 May 2026.
- 3 The purpose of this suspension is to allow NZTA more time to provide a detailed and technically informed response to comments received pursuant to section 53 of the FTAA. The requested suspension will better enable NZTA to assist the Expert Panel with its decision-making on the Application. There are no previously scheduled tasks or procedural steps (such as expert conferencing) that will be affected by the suspension.
- 4 If the Panel grants the suspension sought by NZTA:
 - a NZTA's response to comments from invited parties would be due on Friday 15 May 2026; and
 - b The Panel's decision on the Application would be due on 4 August 2026.
- 5 NZTA acknowledges the Expert Panel may wish to continue with its work to review and assess the Application during the suspension. NZTA has no objection to:
 - a Work by the Panel; and
 - b Work by the EPA administrative staff in support of the Panel;continuing during the suspension period.

Dated 8 May 2026



Nicky McIndoe / Ella Harkness
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