
MINUTE 8 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Approval of extension of time and request for further information – National
Policy Direction

Ryans Road Industrial Area [FTAA-2504-1054]

(23 January 2026)

[1] This Minute addresses:

(a) requests for extension of time from CIAL and Airways in response to Minute 7 issued by the Expert Panel (Panel); and

(b) the national direction instruments approved by the Governor General on 15 December 2025.

Requests for extension of time

[2] The Panel has received a request from CIAL for an extension of time to file its response to the Memorandum of counsel for the applicant received by the Panel on 19 January by one working day to Monday 26 January.

[3] The Panel has received a request from Airways for an extension of time to file its response to the Memorandum of counsel for the applicant received by the Panel on 19 January by three working days to Wednesday 28 January. Airways have requested the extension so that it is able to instruct legal counsel.

[4] The Panel has considered these requests, and both are approved by the Panel on the basis that the extensions are small and reasonable in the circumstances expressed in the requests.

National direction instruments

[5] On 18 December 2025, the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) announced that ten (10) national direction instruments were approved by the Governor General on 15 December 2025, as follows:

- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025
- National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025
- National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Amendment 2025
- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Amendment 2025
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025
- National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025.

[6] Three of these instruments are new, and seven have been amended. These documents will come into force on 15 January 2026.

[7] The Panel requires advice from the Applicant and other parties regarding the application of these instruments to the assessment and evaluation tasks it must undertake pursuant to the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).

[8] Pursuant to section 67 of the FTAA, the Panel requests:

- (a) A planning and/or legal memorandum from the Applicant, the Christchurch City Council, the Canterbury Regional Council, Airways and CIAL:
 - i Confirming the extent to which the new National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 approved on 15 December 2025 (NPS-I) raises additional matters for assessment of resource consent approvals sought under the FTAA; and
 - ii Undertaking a brief assessment of the impact of such matters on the Application and the Panel's evaluation task.

- (b) A planning and/or legal memorandum from the Applicant and the Christchurch City Council:
 - i Confirming the extent to which any of the other new or amended national direction instruments raise additional matters for assessment of resource consent approvals sought under the FTAA; and
 - ii Undertaking a brief assessment of the impact of such matters on the Application and the Panel's evaluation task.

[9] The Canterbury Regional Council is invited to provide comment on any of the other new or amended national direction instruments if it wishes to do so. Any comments should be provided in the manner detailed at paragraph [8](b) above.

[10] This further information is to be provided to the EPA by 5pm on Wednesday 4 February 2026.



Chris Fowler
Expert Panel Chair