
MINUTE 8 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Request for further information

North West Rapid Transit [FTAA-2511-1146]

19 May 2026

[1] The Panel has received a query from Auckland Council (via the EPA) as to whether the Minister of Defence has been considered in terms of s 53(2)(l) of the FTAA as the requiring authority for the Airspace Designation 4311 ([Minister of Defence.pdf](#)).


[2] The Panel has considered this issue and notes that Designation 4311 overlays parts of the Project in its western-most sections. No reference is made in the application documents with respect to this designation. The Panel has undertaken its own initial review of the conditions and restrictions associated with Designation 4311 and observes that:

- (a) Condition 1 does not appear to be applicable, as while the relevant land is within the 'Airspace Restriction Designation', it does not overlap with the hatched area shown in Drawing No. 9B-2 identified as 'land use and subdivision subject to NZDF approval'; and
- (b) In terms of Condition 2 and the obstacle path shown in 9B-2, the NWRT route is understood to be generally of the same or similar grade as the surrounding motorway/roading infrastructure, and would not appear to fall within the 9m height limitation, nor the

height of the obstacle path in this area. However, there is a possible question in respect of the height of any construction cranes that may be used for the Project (if consideration of a temporary structure is a relevant matter under the terms of the designation).

[3] The Panel requests that the Applicant address the particulars of Designation 4311 and provide comment as to whether it considers that any aspect of the designation is or may be engaged by the Project. If so, the Panel signals that it will issue a further minute inviting the Minister of Defence to comment in accordance with s 53(2)(l).

[4] The Panel requests that the Applicant provide a response to this Minute by 21 May 2026.



Lachlan Muldowney

North West Rapid Transit Expert Panel Chair