
MINUTE 10 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Response to the memoranda of Counsel for the Applicant

North West Rapid Transit [FTAA-2511-1146]

29 May 2026

Introduction

[1] This minute responds to the memoranda of Counsel for the Applicant dated 26 May 2026 and 29 May 2026.

Response to 26 May memorandum

[2] As requested, the EPA has provided the Applicant with a copy of Auckland Council's request for an extension of the deadline for lodging its comment.

[3] The Panel is focussed on receiving well prepared comments that assist it in its decision making.

[4] The Panel can accept and consider a late comment under s 81(6) of the FTAA. The Panel also refers to Sch3 cl 10 which states that in relation to procedural matters, a panel must regulate its own procedure as it thinks appropriate, without procedural formality, and in a manner that best promotes the just and timely determination of the approvals sought in a substantive application.

[5] The practical effect of granting an extension, or accepting a late comment, is similar. But if necessary the issue can be resolved by the exercise of discretion under s 81(6) of the FTAA.

Response to 29 May memorandum

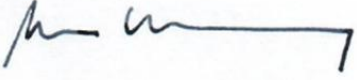
[6] The Panel refers to paragraph 4 of the memorandum and confirms that the date set out in paragraph 4.1 and the timeframe set out in paragraph 4.2 accord with the Panel's expectations.

[7] In respect of the inquiry set out in paragraph 6 of the memorandum, the Panel is not assisted by a delay in the Applicant's response to 9 June.

[8] In relation to the King's Birthday holiday point raised in paragraph 8 of the memorandum, the Panel confirms that the deadline for the second group of submitters should account for this. It is accordingly set at 3 June 2026.

[9] For clarity, the Panel adopts the various deadlines for comments on the Application as amended by this minute below:

- (a) 26 May, for the first group of invitees (Minute 2);
- (b) 3 June for a second group of invitees (Minute 4);
- (c) 2 June, for Auckland Council (Minute 9 and as above);
- (d) 16 June (for additional Westgate Shopping Centre invitees (Minute 6 and Minute 9); and
- (e) 22 June, for the Minister of Defence (Minute 9).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lachlan Muldowney', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Lachlan Muldowney

North West Rapid Transit Expert Panel Chair