
MINUTE 14 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Suggesting suspension of processing

Green Steel [FTAA-2506-1074]

(23 January 2026)

[1] Expert conferencing was held on 22 January 2026, regarding the proposed Monofills, earthworks and related geotechnical issues.

[2] In the course of the conferencing it became apparent, and the Applicant agreed, that additional work is required on the water balance to assess seasonality and variability in leachate volumes (and to include consideration of the monofill capping); and a sensitivity analysis of the groundwater model including potential environmental effects on boundary taking into account 99th percentile NEMP 3.0 ecological criteria.

[3] No specific timeframe was agreed for the provision of this additional work although it was anticipated that it should be completed by Friday, 30 January 2026.

[4] The decision due date by which the Panel must make its decision is currently 4 March 2026. If consent is to be declined the Panel must issue a draft decision to this effect by next Wednesday, 28 January 2026. In the absence of the additional assessment, modelling and analysis agreed to at the expert conferencing the Panel would be unable to approve the Application, at least insofar as it relates to the Monofills.

[5] Given the condensed timeframes the Panel is subject to and the need for the above information to be provided before the Panel can determine the application, the Panel respectfully suggests the Applicant consider requesting a suspension of processing (under s 64 of the Act) pending provision of the information and for 5 working days thereafter to allow time for it to be considered.

[6] If the information can be provided by 30 January 2026 the suggested suspension would be until **Monday 9 February 2026**.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Casey".

Matthew Casey KC
Green Steel Expert Panel Chair