
MINUTE 24 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Resumption of processing and Applicant response to Minute 22
Sunfield [FTAA-2503-1039]

(2 February 2026)

Resumption of Processing

- [1] On 19 December 2025, processing of the application was suspended following a request from the Applicant under section 64 of the FTAA.
- [2] On 30 January 2026, the Applicant filed a request for processing to resume. The Panel confirms that processing of the application resumed from 11:59pm on 30 January 2026.
- [3] Including the most recent suspension, processing of the application has been now been suspended for a total of 65 working days.¹
- [4] The Panel's final decision is now due on **5 March 2026**, assuming that the applicant makes no further request to suspend processing of the application.

Applicant's response to Minute 22

- [5] On 18 December 2025, the Panel issued Minute 22 requesting further information from the Applicant, and on 2 February 2026 the Applicant provided a response.
- [6] A copy of the Minute and response can be viewed on the fast-track website, here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/sunfield/correspondence>

¹ The Panel observes that the total number of days that the application can be suspended is now 100 working days as a result of an amendment to section 66(6) of the FTAA, which took effect on 17 December 2025.

[7] As directed in Minute 22, other Parties may file:

- a. legal submissions on the specific questions outlined in Minute 22 (attached as **Appendix 1** to this Minute for ease of reference); and
- b. a response to the planning assessment provided by the Applicant.

[8] Auckland Council may also file a response from Dr Meade to the updated economic assessment provided by the Applicant. Such response (if any) is to be no longer than 7 pages.

[9] Any responses must be filed by **5pm on 4 February 2026**, and can be filed with the EPA via email to Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Maw".

Philip Maw
Expert Panel Chair

Appendix 1 – Legal questions outlined in Minute 22

[1] The Panel would be assisted by legal submissions on the following questions:

a. What are the implications for this proposal of changes made to the Fast Track Approval Act 2024 by the Fast Track Approvals Amendment Act 2025?

b. Section 3 of the FTAAs sets out its purpose, as follows:

The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

This purpose is referred to elsewhere in the Schedules to the FTAAs which set out decision-making criteria. The Panel seeks legal submissions on the meaning of the word “significant” in the context of this application.

[2] The Panel also observes that the Government has introduced three new National Instruments and amended seven existing ones, as follows

a. Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025

b. National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025

c. National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025

d. National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025

e. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Amendment 2025

f. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Amendment 2025

g. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025

h. Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025

- i. National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025
- j. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025

[3] The Panel seeks legal submission on the relevance (if any) of these new/amended instruments to this application.