
MINUTE 11 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Suspensions
North West Rapid Transit [FTAA-2511-1146]
9 June 2026

[1] By memorandum dated 8 June 2026, and in accordance with section 64(1) of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), the Applicant has made a written request to the Panel that the processing of the substantive application be suspended through to 23 June 2026.

[2] The memorandum further sets out the Applicant's concerns regarding the comments submitted by Auckland Council on 2 June 2026 and explains that the suspension is sought to allow sufficient time for the Applicant to work with the Council to achieve alignment on the application and to provide coordinated comments to assist the Panel.

[3] Under s64(4) of the Act, the Panel may, at its discretion suspend the processing of a consent application when a request is made. Where the Panel does grant a suspension, it must give written notice of the date on which processing was suspended to any of the parties specified under s 64(a) to (d) of the Act.

[4] The Panel has considered the memorandum from the applicant and decided to grant the request. Processing of the North West Rapid Transit application will therefore be suspended from 11:59pm on 8 June 2026.

[5] The Applicant has requested that, at this time, the suspension would be for a period of 10 working days. Unless advised otherwise, processing of the application will resume on 12.01am on 23 June 2026.

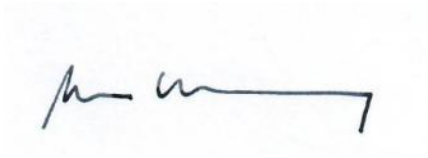
[6] The Panel also records that counsel for the Applicant has confirmed that the Applicant is content for the Panel to continue considering the application during the period of suspension. However, the Applicant does not consider it appropriate for any new procedural steps to be undertaken during the suspension, such as issuing further requests for information or directing expert conferencing or mediation.

[7] The Applicant has also confirmed that the Council's reasonable costs incurred during the period of suspension may be recovered, insofar as those costs relate to engagement with the Applicant to address the matters raised in the memorandum.

[8] The Applicant further submits in its memorandum that the suspension should not affect the existing deadlines for submissions on the Application. In particular, the deadlines of 16 June for additional Westgate Shopping Centre invitees (as set out in Minute 6 and Minute 9) and 22 June for the Minister of Defence (Minute 9) should remain unchanged. The Applicant further considers that its corresponding deadline to respond to those submissions (being 5 working days) should likewise be unaffected by the suspension.

[9] The Panel does not agree with the Applicant on this point. The Panel considers that the practical effect of the suspension is to suspend the timeframe within which the comments are required. Without the Westgate Shopping Centre invitees and the Minister of Defence agreeing to the existing deadline remaining, the statutory timeframe is extended by the duration of the suspension, and then recommences running at the conclusion of the suspension.

[10] The Panel has requested that the EPA undertake the necessary time calculations so that it can clarify the amended due dates following the resumption of the processing of the application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lachlan Muldowney', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lachlan Muldowney

North West Rapid Transit Expert Panel Chair