

Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Vocational Education
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment



22 September 2025

PS-COR1548

Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block Fast-track Application

Environmental Protection Authority

By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

RE: FTAA-2503-1037 - Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block invite to the Minister for the Environment to comment

To the Panel,

Thank you for the invitation to provide comments on the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block substantive application under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).

As the Minister for the Environment, I have statutory functions and responsibilities under the Resource Management Act, the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ), the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 as well as the Environment Act 1986. I consider s6 of the RMA and national direction including the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPS-IB) are of relevance to the proposed application.

Having reviewed the substantive application, including the record of correspondence between the applicant and the local authorities, you may wish to consider the following:

- The proposed conditions included in Part H address the monitoring and annual reporting requirements associated with long-term reporting on planting areas and pest and weed control. None of the proposed conditions associated with long-term monitoring extend beyond 30 years, which is not aligned with the consent timeframe sought of 50-years for the operation of the expanded quarry.

Acknowledging the panel is only required to take into account Part 2 of the RMA and national direction such as the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity¹, I request that you consider revising the conditions as proposed by the applicant to align the timeframes for the quarrying activity and the biodiversity offsetting (e.g. 50 years) to better reflect the anticipated duration the adverse effects are expected to occur.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this application.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for the Environment

¹ Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 Schedule 5 cl.17. Criteria and other matters for assessment of consent application