

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



FTAA-2503-1037

Catherine Somerville-Frost
Fast-track Expert Panel Chair
substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on Stevenson Aggregates Limited's Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) substantive application, the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block project (FTAA-2503-1037). I am responding in my capacity as Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and Minister for Infrastructure

Infrastructure is important for growth and prosperity. Our view is our planning system has not been enabling of growth, hence the establishment of the FTAA. I have attached my comments relating to the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block project in Appendix 1.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my broad support for projects which deliver positive outcomes for New Zealand, including the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block project. Please take this letter of support as a reflection of the Government's economic growth and infrastructure priorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CB-B', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister for Infrastructure

Appendix 1 – Comments on the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block project –

FTAA-2503-1037

National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land 2022

The applicant provided advice that the site is classified as LUC 6. If Auckland Council agrees with the findings of the report, no further assessment would be required under the NPS-HPL for this activity.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 & National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020

A comprehensive suite of assessments relating to freshwater has been done, including on the impacts to groundwater, permanent and intermittent streams and wetlands and the habitats they provide.

Following best practice, the applicants have applied the effects management hierarchy and recommended mitigation and management plans, including stream and wetland offset packages and net gain delivery planting plans for wetland and riparian habitats. The local authority (Auckland Council) has also had the opportunity to review and provide feedback on freshwater effects and management and is best placed to respond to these matters. We would typically rely on Auckland Council's assessment of these matters.

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPSIB)

The application included a comprehensive Ecological Impact Assessment of the development site, including the impacts on indigenous vegetation and habitat.

To mitigate the effects the applicant has proposed an Ecological Management Plan that includes a significant package of biodiversity offsets. The biodiversity offset package includes revegetation, riparian planting, and pest and weed control in existing forests adjacent to the quarrying operation, as well as other offsite enhancements. The details are proposed to be addressed through consent conditions.

Auckland Council has had the opportunity to review and provide feedback and is best placed to respond to these matters.