

FTA-2502-1018

23 June 2025

Director General of Conservation

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Tēnā koe

Request for advice and reports under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Kings Quarry Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 15 May 2025. The Kings Quarry Expansion – Stage 2 application relates to the commencement of Stage 2 of the Kings Quarry Expansion to extract approximately 500,000 tonnes of aggregate per annum for a period of 45 years. It is proposed to undertake vegetation removal, earthworks and land disturbance, stream reclamation, diversion/dewatering of groundwater and discharges to air (the application).

The EPA has decided that the application is complete and in scope under section 46 of the Act and provided the application to the panel convener. The substantive application seeks an approval for a wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h) of the Act.

Under section 51 of the Act, the panel convener has now directed the EPA to obtain from the Director-General of Conservation the following reports:

- In respect of the wildlife approval under **section 42(4)(h)** of the Act, a report prepared the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with **clause 3 of Schedule 7** of the Act.

The panel convener has also directed the EPA to obtain advice from the Department of Conservation in respect of the following:

- Pursuant to section 51(1) of the Act, the Director-General of Conservation is to file a report advising how the weighting of matters set out in Schedule 7, clause 3 of the Act should be approached, having regard to relevant senior court decisions.

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- Pursuant to section 51(2)(c) of the Act, if the Director-General of Conservation does not agree with, or wishes to amplify, the expert and planning assessment lodged in support of the wildlife approval, it must file a report in accordance with Schedule 7, clause 3.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the Director-General of Conservation may confirm and append advice previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project and does not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if it concurs with the expert and planning assessments filed by the applicant.
- The Director-General of Conservation is to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plan attached to the application, recommending track-changed amendments (if any).
- Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to the persons listed in section 51(5).

The panel convener has issued a Minute dated 23 June 2025 which outlines the panel convenor's directions in more detail. The Minute is attached as Appendix 1 to this letter

The Department of Conservation must provide the reports and advice requested to the EPA **within 10 working days after the panel invites comments under section 53 of the Act.**

If you have any questions, please contact June Cahill, Application Leader by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Christina Smits

Advisor, Fast-track Applications