



RE: Central and Southern Blocks Mining Project Process Update - Applicant memo and request from the Panel

From Amy Robinson [REDACTED]
Date Tue 18/08/2026 1:41 PM
To Substantive <Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>
Cc [REDACTED]

Kia ora

Please find below DOC's response to the Panel's request for feedback on TIL's Memorandum of 14 August 2026.

DOC considers that expert conferencing should proceed on RFI responses 1, 2, and 4 in the usual manner (DOC does not have an expert involved in RFI 9 and 10).

DOC considers that the proposal for parties experts' to provide feedback on TIL's conditions, which TIL will then accept or not and provide reasons, will be of more limited probative value to the Panel.

TIL's proposal has the potential to make the information provided less useful to the Panel because it will not contain TIL experts' opinions imparted in an independent way, in accordance with the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for expert witnesses 2023. For example, at 8(c)(i) TIL states "TIL has a strong view on the need and implications of setbacks". It is important that any ecological or other expert rationale for setbacks be discussed and outlined in the absence of 'strong views'. Following this, the 'practicality' and other operational considerations can be overlain, in the normal manner (the Panel's Practice Note confirms that "[an expert's] agreement will not bind any party to a particular overall outcome or to the wording of any condition" [15.2]). DOC does not consider the reasons expressed in TIL's Memorandum differ from many other 'reconsenting' cases, where there is historical knowledge, so as to warrant a different procedure.

The Memorandum indicates that overlaying TIL operational considerations, after expert conferencing, could be an inefficient process. DOC notes that efficiency could be improved if historical and empirical data (paragraph 7(a)) were conveyed to TIL's experts prior to the conference (which would in any event be expected). In addition, there is nothing preventing TIL proposing its revised conditions prior, for consideration by all experts at conferencing.

TIL's Memo indicates that the views of DOC's experts are entrenched. However enabling DOC's experts an opportunity to freely discuss reasoning and various options with TIL's (and other) experts, will provide solutions or narrow issues in a more efficient way than internal TIL team discussions with a feedback loop. This is particularly the case given that TIL proposes that parties each respond separately (e.g. DOC, WRC, NMKTH and Te Nehenehenui).

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind regards
Amy

Amy Robinson

Project Manager Fast Track Consenting (Contractor)

Tauranga

From: Substantive <Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 17 August 2026 1:51 pm

To: Substantive <Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>

Subject: Central and Southern Blocks Mining Project Process Update - Applicant memo and request from the Panel

Tēnā koe

You are receiving this email as you provided comments on the Central and Southern Block Mining Project substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

Applicant memorandum

The Panel has received the attached memorandum from counsel for the Applicant seeking a further suspension to enable five aspects of the Panel's further information request issued under Minute 22 (at the conclusion of the Panel Facilitated Conference) to be responded to through an alternative process to the expert conferencing which had been directed by the Panel on those matters, with proposed extended timeframes to enable that revised process to be completed (paragraph 25 of the memorandum) .

While the Panel is currently minded to grant the further suspension, before deciding whether and on what basis it would do so, the s53 parties are requested to make any comment on the revised process for any or all of the topics covered in the memorandum (referred to as RFI 1, RF1 2, RF1 4, and RFIs 9 - 10 in the Applicant's memorandum).

Comments by the s 53 parties must be received by 11.59pm on Tuesday 18 August.

The Panel will issue a Minute with its decision and any revised directions in response to the Applicant's request for a further suspension, as soon as possible following receipt of those comments.

The attached applicant's memorandum and previous minutes can be found on the Fasttrack website here:

<https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/central-and-southern-block-mining/correspondence-convener-and-panel>

If you have any questions, please contact the Fast-track Team at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi,

Kara Johnstone

Advisor | Fast-track applications



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