Hon Nicola Grigg

Minister for the Environment
Minister of State for Trade and Investment
Minister for Women
Associate Minister for ACC

10 August 2026

NCGOR3246

Mary Hill
Expert Panel Chair
C/o Environmental Protection Agency
substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Mary

RE: Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills (FTAA-2603-1178) invitation to the Minister for the Environment to comment

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the substantive application for the Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills project 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 1991 (RMA), 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 acknowledge that it is for the Panel to assess the application and determine whether the adverse environmental effects of the proposal can be appropriately managed through conditions. In doing so, I encourage the Panel to carefully consider whether the proposed conditions provide sufficient certainty that any adverse effects on the environment will be avoided, remedied, mitigated, offset or compensated for, as appropriate.

The indigenous biodiversity values of the site are significant. Given the scale of the development and uncertainty about the effects, I suggest that you consider strengthening conditions to ensure that management plans for all indigenous biodiversity groups, wetlands and streams provide for clearer management responses.

For example, I suggest the inclusion of an overarching Ecological Management Plan, that:

- Is prepared by suitably qualified and experienced ecologists
- Details how the specific outcomes for all indigenous biodiversity groups, wetlands and streams will be achieved, including monitoring, certification, and contingency measures if outcomes are not being achieved within the anticipated timeframes
- Requires certification by Council, where related to regional council consents.

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

Yours sincerely

Hon Nicola Grigg
Minister for the Environment

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