

Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Resources
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Energy



24 September 2025

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Fast-track Approvals Act substantive application – Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block, FTAA-2503-1037

Dear Chris

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA 2024).

The FTAA 2024 has been established to provide a regime that makes it easier and quicker for regionally and nationally significant infrastructure projects to gain the approvals needed for development, in support of this Government's economic growth objectives.

I have considered the referral application for the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block and its alignment with the priorities of my Resources portfolio. My comments as Minister for Resources are attached as Annex One.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Jones'.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Resources

Annex One – Resources portfolio comments

Project overview

1. Stevenson Aggregates Limited (Stevenson) has lodged a substantive application for Fast-track approval to develop a quarry (the Sutton Block) with a maximum pit depth of 60 metres over a 50-year period. The Sutton Quarry is proposed to be next to the existing Drury Quarry pit and will be serviced using existing infrastructure and facilities.
2. The Drury Quarry is New Zealand's largest quarry and supplies aggregate (used for concrete and roading) in the Auckland, Waikato, and Northland regions. The application notes that the Drury Quarry is approaching the end of its life, and that demand for aggregate is continuing to grow in Auckland and neighbouring regions.
3. Stevenson proposes to develop the Sutton Block to increase supply of aggregate to Auckland, Waikato, and Northland, and provide long-term certainty of supply.

Comments

4. In January, I released the Government's Minerals Strategy which sets a long-term, strategic approach to how we develop our mineral resources. It emphasises the production of aggregate as strategically important.
5. New Zealand's Critical Mineral List recognises aggregate as critical. This is due to their high level of economic importance to New Zealand, and the regulatory constraints limiting new supply opportunities particularly close to the major demand centre in Auckland. It is important that quarries be located near demand centres; a common industry short-hand estimate is that the cost of aggregate doubles after the first 30km it is transported.
6. The Government has a significant public infrastructure pipeline in the Auckland Region, which requires a stable and affordable supply of aggregate. The application notes that the Sutton Block would produce 4.8 million tonnes of aggregate per year, which would contribute substantially to meeting growing demand for aggregate in the Auckland Region. The applicant notes that Auckland-based demand for aggregate exceeds Auckland's total quarry production by more than 4 million tonnes per annum, and this gap could grow to 7-20 million tonnes per annum by 2048.
7. Stevenson estimate that for each million tonnes of aggregate produced, between \$29.4 and \$65.2 million per year would be saved in transport, social, and environmental costs. Even at the conservative end of this range, these savings would be of nationally significant benefit.
8. In summary, I consider approval of the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block project aligns with Government priorities for natural resources, and, if granted, the project will be of significant regional and national benefit.