

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 6 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Suspension of processing
Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block [FTAA-2503-1037]

7 October 2025

Suspension of processing

[1] This Minute responds to the applicant's memorandum of counsel dated 6 October 2025. A copy of this memorandum is available on the EPA website here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/drury-quarry-expansion-sutton-block/correspondence>

[2] The suspension requested at paragraph [1.4] of the memorandum is granted by the Panel, under section 64(3) of the FTAA. The suspension commences from and including today, Tuesday 7 October 2025.

[3] The Panel is particularly keen to ensure that, when undertaking its decision-making, it has to hand the updated conditions that the applicant proposes to address the matters raised in our requests for information and in the comments received further to invitations.

[4] The Panel was made aware of clarification from the EPA yesterday that, during any suspension "*all processing of the application needs to pause, including any work by the panel and EPA. No costs can be incurred during the suspension period.*" This is to apply even where an applicant indicates that it is content for work to continue.

[5] It is not currently clear to the Panel whether technical review work (such as that being undertaken by Mr Williamson), and expert conferencing (particularly, facilitated conferencing), would be able to occur. Putting it more bluntly, while those steps could practically occur, the issue would be whether the individuals involved in those processes would be able to invoice for their time, if that time was spent during a suspension.

[6] We have sought advice on these matters from the EPA. Once we have that clarification to hand we will be able to consider the applicant's proposed amended timetable included at Annexure A of their memorandum. We express our thanks to the applicant for their proactive consideration of process and timing matters.

[7] A short teleconference following lodgement of the next conditions set would be appropriate (i.e. next week), and the Panel has asked the EPA to make arrangements for that.



Catherine Somerville-Frost

Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block Expert Panel Chair