
MINUTE 3 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Ecology Conditions – Ensuring recommendations are conditioned
Hunua Quarry Development [FTAA-2603 -1185]
15 July 2026

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to set out a conditions cross checking exercise to ensure that all recommendations are conditioned and/or included in management plans, which it would assist the Panel if the Applicant could complete.

[2] As discussed during the Panel briefing Mr McMahon has undertaken a cross-check on the extent to which the recommendations made in four technical reports¹ were followed through into the draft conditions (and contents of management plans, where available) volunteered by the Applicant for the Hunua Quarry project. The table resulting from that cross check is attached in **Appendix One**.

[3] For context, this exercise has **not** assessed whether the conditions provide an adequate basis for the Panel to conclude that any adverse environmental effects of consequence associated with the activity for which consent is sought have been suitably addressed. We are yet to undertake that exercise as a Panel. However, in the meantime, it is useful to know that the mitigations identified by the applicant's technical experts have been replicated in the conditions

[4] The Panel recognises that there may be deliberate reason why a particular recommendation has not been included. But that, with the reasons, always needs to be explicitly stated.

[5] The result of Mr McMahon's review identified only one minor matter for

¹ Air Quality, Landscape, Acoustic and Vibration and Transport.

the Applicant to consider being recommendations in section 6.2 of the Air Quality Report related to dust management of managed fill and there are no specific sections in the draft AQMP nor references in the condition set relating to drop heights or use of earth bunds as methods of dust management. The Panel asks that the Applicant consider such provisions and briefly respond (which may be that for given reasons the inclusion is not required or has been covered elsewhere) at an efficient time, likely with its response to comments.

[6] Given the complexity and volume of the ecological conditions and management plans, for efficiency it was discussed that the Applicant undertake the assessment for all **ecological**² matters and provide it to the Panel as soon as it is able (noting timing demands for all involved). In doing so the Panel asks that the same table is used and expanded (with similar levels of detail and information) as in **Appendix One**.

[7] Where a misalignment (if any) is identified if that could be in red text (as in **Appendix One**) it will aid quick dissemination of the material. If that misalignment is intentional then please include the reasons for that position by the Applicant.

[8] The Panel has also undertaken an initial review of the Wildlife approval conditions. The Panel recognises that discussions are ongoing with DOC, the s51 Report is not yet due and s53 comments (and responses) are still to be completed. The Panel also recognises that there are different approaches (and contexts) taken by FTAA panels, applicants and DOC to wildlife approval conditions (ie Kings Quarry vs Drury Quarry (and others³)). While the proposed structure is for the Applicant (and DOC) to address, the Panel wants to ensure the conditions are clear and work in practice. Within the proposed conditions as they stand the

² The Panel will complete the table for all other topics.

³ Including Waitaha Hydro, Waihi North, Wellington International Airport Limited Seawall and Southland Wind Farm.

Applicant may wish to:

- (a) clarify the land the approval applies to;
- (b) refer to incidental harm as well as death (use the phrasing "incidentally harm or kill"). The Panel is unsure if the Applicant intends to cover incidental harm. Currently the conditions and application only refer to incidental death. But there is acknowledgement⁴ that the activities carry some risk of injury or mortality;
- (c) include clauses on variation and termination/cancellation;
- (d) consider if there needs to be any link (or not) to the RMA approval conditions; and
- (e) define key terms.



David Allen

Hunua Quarry Development Expert Panel Chair

⁴ [Hunua-Quarry-FTAA Part-C Wildlife-Act-Permit 20260415.pdf](#), at 12(b).