Office of Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue

Mary Hill
Expert Panel Chair
C/o Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Mary,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi's Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) substantive application, Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills Project (FTAA-2603-1178).

The proposal appears to provide resilience and adaptation benefits by replacing a vulnerable section of SH1 and incorporating climate change projections into its design for flooding, stormwater and geotechnical risks. These matters align with the Government's first national adaptation plan and the resilience priority in the Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024/25–2033/34.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my broad support for projects which deliver positive climate outcomes for New Zealand, including the Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills Project.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change

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