

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Procedural matters

Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block [FTAA-2503-1037]

30 September 2025

Procedural matters

[1] This Minute addresses three procedural matters and provides an early indication of some areas (effects on the environment) in respect of which the Panel would like to see additional information and, potentially, expert conferencing.

Commissioning of peer review - hydrology

[2] The Panel has requested the EPA to commission a report on an issue relevant to the application, being a peer review report on hydrology. We understand Mr Jon Williamson of Williamson Water and Land Advisory is in the process of being retained.

[3] The Panel wishes to obtain further expert advice in relation to the scale of potential hydrological effects. This is in relation to effects on surface water (wetlands and streams), effects on other quarries, and impacts on other groundwater (bore) users. The Panel notes in particular references made by the Applicant to the potential for a 7.5km effects radius.

Late comments and further information response

[4] The Panel has been made aware that three late comments were received from Mr André Hodgskin, Ms Natasha Bridgeman, and Mr Tim MacWhinney on behalf of Kilkeel Holdings Ltd. The first two comments were received only one working day late, on Thursday 25 September 2025, and Mr MacWhinney's comment was received on 29 September 2025. The Panel has resolved to accept these comments under section 81(6)(b) of the FTAA (i.e. we will consider the comments in our decision-making).

[5] The Applicant may respond to the late comments by **Monday 6 October 2025**.

[6] The Applicant has now also provided an updated Noise Report, further to our first request for information (Minute 3), and this is available on the website. This was due on 22 September 2025 but provided four working days late. This delay was foreshadowed in the on-time response to our request. For completeness we record that we have also resolved to accept this information under section 81(6)(b).

Next steps

[7] The Panel is aware that we have further information due from the Applicant very soon, being:

- a. Responses to comments, due on Wednesday 1 October and Monday 6 October 2025 (five working days provided).
- b. A response to our detailed request for further information on ecological matters (Minute 4) also due on 1 October 2025 (ten working days provided).

[8] Given the fast-track nature of these proceedings we consider it fair at this point to record that, subject to the material the Applicant may be able to provide

this week (which would of necessity be provided in extremely short order), we anticipate the need for further work.

[9] That further work is currently expected to include as follows:

- a. Expert conferencing on ecological matters, being principally freshwater matters and the proposed effects management package, but also in relation to some more minor terrestrial matters. These flow from the second of our requests for further information (Minute 4), the comments received (particularly from Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment), and may also include relevant outputs from the hydrology review referred to in paragraph [3].
- b. Work between the Applicant and Te Akitai Waiohau Settlement Trust in relation to (additional / further) proposed conditions to address the cultural effects they have identified, as outlined in their comments.
- c. Expert conferencing on economic assessment matters, particularly in relation to the costs and benefits identified in the Auckland Council comments.
- d. In the event of grant, work to update and finalise the proposed conditions to address the matters identified through (a) to (c), as well as the matters raised in our requests for further information (Minutes 3 and 4), the Applicant's response to those requests, the two section 51 reports, and the comments received.

[10] The Applicant may consider that there is a more efficient way in which to address the above matters. However, as it will take some time for formal expert conferencing, with a facilitator, to be arranged through the EPA we would like to get that underway as soon as possible.

[11] For the Panel's part, we simply note the extremely short time frames available to the Applicant in a situation where they are needing to respond to a reasonably high volume of material on important matters. This of course also ultimately flows through to the Panel in terms of the need for us to then prepare and circulate draft documents (decision / conditions) within the statutory timeframes.

[12] We invite the Applicant to respond to our above suggestions (paragraph [9]), by **Monday 6 October 2025**. If necessary, please treat this as a request for further information under section 67(1)(a) of the FTAA. Consultation with Auckland Council and the other parties referred to in paragraph [9] would be of assistance, if time permitted.



Catherine Somerville-Frost

Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block Expert Panel Chair