

Hon Shane Jones

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



31 July 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 substantive application – Hunua Quarry Development [FTAA-2603-1185]

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hunua Quarry Development substantive application [FTAA-2603-1185] under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).

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

I have considered the application and its alignment with the priorities of my Resources portfolio. My comments 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 comments

Project overview

1. The applicant, Winstone Aggregates (Winstone) has applied for Fast-track approval for its proposed Hunua Quarry Development project (the project). The project entails the staged increase in aggregate resource at the existing Hunua Quarry in the Auckland Region, just southeast of Papakura.
2. Winstone state that the project would unlock access to more than 225 million tonnes (MT) of greywacke aggregate. The Hunua Quarry averaged 2.72 million tonnes of annual production from 2016-2025. The project would provide for current, or modestly increased rates of production to continue over an 80-year period. Alternatively, Winstone's Economic Impact Assessment notes that the project could support increased production peaking at 5.4 MT annually, over a shorter period, if there is sufficient demand in the Auckland Region.

Resources comments

3. The Government's Minerals Strategy, published in January 2025 sets a long-term, strategic approach to how we develop our mineral resources. The Minerals Strategy emphasises the production of aggregate, including greywacke aggregate, such as that from the Hunua Quarry, as strategically important and the building blocks for our infrastructure and housing needs.
4. Access to long-term sources of aggregate in the Auckland Region may provide certainty for infrastructure planners and support New Zealand's significant infrastructure pipeline. This pipeline is central to the Government's Going for Growth and Going for Housing Growth strategies. Amongst other uses, Greywacke aggregate is used in production of concrete and in road construction. The Aggregate and Quarry Association estimate that on average, each new house requires approximately 250 tonnes of aggregate, and that construction of one km of a two-lane highway requires approximately 14,000 tonnes of construction aggregate. The applicant estimates the structural deficit of aggregate supply in the Auckland region at 2.1 MT in 2026, growing to 6.2 MT per annum in 2055.
5. New Zealand's Critical Mineral List recognises aggregate as critical. This is due to the high level of economic importance of aggregate to New Zealand, and the regulatory constraints limiting new supply opportunities. It is important that quarries be located near demand centres, such as Auckland, our largest demand centre; a common industry short-hand estimate is that the cost of aggregate doubles after the first 30km it is transported.
6. Winstone estimated the present value of avoided transport, emissions and social costs (arising from road injuries and fatalities) of sourcing aggregate from Hunua Quarry compared to an alternative quarry in Waikato, over the 80-year extension. Winstone estimated the present value of avoided costs at \$663 million at a 5 per cent discount rate, in the most conservative scenario modelled.