

14 August 2026

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Dear Nick,

FTAA-2603-1185 Hunua Quarry Development – Technical response to comments on noise and vibration matters

1.0 Introduction

Winstone Aggregates (**Winstone** or the **Applicant**) engaged Styles Group to assess the potential noise and vibration effects of the proposal under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**) to expand Hunua Quarry.

I prepared the acoustic assessment submitted with FTAA application: *Acoustics and Vibration Assessment, Hunua Quarry Development Project, Huna Quarry*, 30 March 2026, Revision 3 (the **Acoustic Report**).

The Acoustic Report outlines my qualifications and experience and compliance with the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. I have continued to comply with the Code of Conduct in preparing this advice.

I have reviewed and provided input into the Applicant's response to comments table in relation to EPA Commenter Codes 6.003, 7.003, 7.004, 7.005, 7.006, 8.305, 8.307, 10.019, 10.030, 11.001, 11.004, and 11.019.

2.0 Responses to comments

I have summarised and addressed relevant comments in the following sections.

2.1 Lot 3 Deposited Plan 136139 – 802 Ponga Road

6.003: The commenter is concerned that residents high on the hill to the south may receive more noise than the monitoring station in the Judge Richardson subdivision.

All noise modelling undertaken for the Acoustic Report and Operational Noise Management Plan includes the local terrain, elevations, and positive meteorological conditions for sound propagation. The difference in noise level between any monitoring station and any notional boundary has been considered.

2.2 Lot 28 DP 362339 – 191 Judge Richardson Drive

7.003: The commenter is concerned that expansion has the potential to increase noise and states that the application should place greater weight on preserving the amenity values of established rural residential properties, rather than relying solely on compliance with technical noise standards.

The proposed operational noise conditions provide better controls for ensuring that noise does not exceed a reasonable level than the existing Auckland Unitary Plan (**AUP**) standards. This is outlined in Section 4.1 of the Acoustic Report.

The Technical Specialist Memo dated 12 May 2026 provided by Auckland Council's Noise Specialist (the **Council Memo**) concludes "overall, the proposed conditions provide better controls than the operative AUP standards for all the surrounding residents in terms of potential noise and vibration effects".

7.004: The commenter is concerned about continued drilling and blasting over an extended period as the quarry expands and deepens, and that neighbouring Fletcher-owned properties will not provide a buffer for noise emissions.

Noise and vibration levels from drilling and blasting will be lower at 191 Judge Richardson Road as the works progress further below ground.

The proposed operational noise conditions provide controls for ensuring that noise does not exceed a reasonable level. This does not depend on the relative location of the noise generating activities at the quarry – which was an issue identified with the existing AUP standards (see Section 4.1.1 of the Acoustic Report).

7.005: The commenter is concerned that repeated vibration and blast overpressure events may create ongoing concern for residents, particularly where there are fears of structural damage, cracking, land movement, or impacts on water infrastructure and other property improvements. The commentor notes that vibration from blasting is perceptible within the dwelling at 191 Judge Richardson Drive.

The proposed vibration limits are the limits of the German vibration Standard DIN 4150–3. The Standard is designed to avoid structural and cosmetic building damage from vibration, which includes effects such as cracks forming in plaster. The Standard, its application, and proposed use are outlined in Sections 3.6.1 and 4.5 of the Acoustic Report.

The recommended guideline limits for avoiding damage to buried pipework in DIN 4150–3 are significantly higher (less stringent) than the recommended limits for dwellings.

There are issues with the existing blasting vibration limits under the AUP, which have been rectified in the proposed vibration conditions. The Council Memo agrees that the proposed limits provide better protection for residents than the existing standards.

The vibration within dwellings from blasting will be no greater than is presently permitted by the relevant AUP standards.

7.006: The commenter considers that the application does not adequately demonstrate how blast overpressure and vibration effects will be avoided or reduced as quarry operations progressively

deepen and move closer to neighbouring properties. Also, that there is no certainty that the frequency or intensity of these events will not increase over the life of the proposed expansion.

The proposed blasting conditions include overpressure and vibration limits and restrictions on the timing and frequency of blasting on the quarry site. These must be complied with regardless of the location of the blast.

Overpressure and vibration will decrease as the activity is progressively undertaken at deeper levels due to the additional distance and screening provided by the pit.

2.3 Auckland Council – Strategic & Planning Memo

8.305: The commenter agrees with retaining the proposed Operational Noise Management Plan (**ONMP**) condition (Condition 38) to enable the document to be finalised and certified, and to enable a suitable process for adaptive changes to the document over time as required.

I agree with the commenter that Condition 38 should be retained.

8.307: The commenter notes that an additional advice note to Condition 78 was recommended in the Council Memo that hasn't been included in the updated condition set.

I agree with the commenter that the advice note should be included in Condition 78.

2.4 Lot 13 Deposited Plan 362339 – 68 Judge Richardson Drive

10.019 and 10.030: The commenter requests that the conditions address blast frequency, airblast and ground vibration limits, advance notification to their property, the location of monitoring, permitted hours, and a pre-commencement property condition survey so that any later damage can be assessed against a baseline.

The conditions address blast frequency, airblast and ground vibration limits, the location of monitoring, and the permitted hours.

The ONMP could include a procedure for providing advance notification to the nearest residents for blasts if this is practicable.

The conditions require compliance with a Standard that sets limits for avoiding cosmetic and structural building damage. I have not therefore recommended pre-condition property surveys in the ONMP.

2.5 Lot 12 Deposited Plan 362339 – 52 Judge Richardson Drive

11.001: The commenter notes they do not consider the proposed mitigation measures sufficient to adequately protect neighbouring residents, particularly if quarry operations are expanded for operational noise.

I consider that compliance with the proposed blasting overpressure and vibration limits will ensure the effects are reasonable. Compliance will be achieved by adopting the mitigation and management measures required by the ONMP.

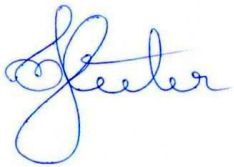
11.004: The commenter is concerned about blasting and its effects on neighbouring properties.

The proposed blasting vibration conditions do not enable any greater level of vibration than the existing AUP permitted standards. They require compliance with a Standard that sets limits for avoiding cosmetic and structural building damage.

11.019: The commenter requests that the conditions require stricter operational noise controls including appropriate restrictions on early-morning operations.

I do not consider it necessary to adopt noise limits that are more stringent than the existing AUP permitted standards for the quarry, including those that apply to early morning operations.

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Exeter, MASNZ
Principal