Outlook

GAC response - Brynderwyns Hills Fast Track proposal

From Jenny Wotten <[redacted]
Date Thu 6/08/2026 3:45 PM
To Substantive <substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>
Cc Game Animal Council [redacted]

Fast Track Team
Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

RE: NZTA application with the EPA - Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills (FTAA-2603-1178)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the NZTA's application with the EPA for the Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills, under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

The Game Animal Council has had an initial look at this proposal, and it appears there are three public hunting areas in the vicinity, predominantly pig hunting.

These are:
1. Waipū Gorge Forest and Scenic Reserve hunting
2. Mareretu Forest hunting: Whangārei, Northland
3. Brynderwyn Hills Scenic Reserve hunting

We have sought feedback from representatives of the NZ Pig Hunting Association in preparing this response.

These areas, while relatively small, are limited areas for recreational hunters to access public land for hunting that may provide important food sources for local communities. The Game Animal Council acknowledges that this application covers a large area including adjoining private land that hunters use, which should also be considered.

For this reason, the Game Animal Council seeks that NZTA considers how this project impacts hunting access, game animal availability, the impact on game animal movements, public safety implications, and ongoing opportunities for engagement with the Game Animal Council and local hunters.

The Game Animal Council is happy to support further engagement with hunters during the detailed design phase, to ensure hunting access and opportunities are maintained and where possible, enhanced.

Ngā mihi, Jenny

Jenny Wotten
Executive Administrator
New Zealand Game Animal Council

phone [redacted]

https://nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz/



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From: Substantive <Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 3:03 PM
To: Substantive <Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>
Subject: FTAA-2603-1178 Invitation to comment - Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills

Tēnā koe

Notice of application by New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, and invitation to comment under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Notice of Application

On 8 April 2026, New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi lodged an application with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for the Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). The application included applying for the following:

- an approval described in section 42(4)(a), (c) or (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance or designation);
- an approval described in section 42(4)(h) (wildlife approval);
- an approval described in section 42(4)(i) (archaeological authority)

On 30 April 2026, the EPA determined that the application complied with section 46(2) of the Act. On 14 May 2026, the EPA decided under Ministerial delegation that the application does not have competing applications [or existing resource consents] under section 47 of the Act and has now referred the application to the Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills Expert Panel (the Panel) to consider and make a decision on the application.

A copy of the application(s) and supporting documents can be accessed on the Fast-track website: https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/alternative-to-the-brynderwyn-hills/substantive-application

Invitation to Comment

The Panel invites you to comment on the above application under sections 53 and 54 of the Act.

If you wish to comment on the application, please submit your comments to the Fast-track Team by email to substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz with the project name in the subject line. A response form is enclosed to assist you with providing relevant details.

To assist timeframes to be met, email is the preferred method for response, if you are unable to submit your comments digitally, you may respond by post to Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills Fast-track Application, Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Waterloo Quay, Wellington 6140.

Your comments must be received by the Fast-track Team no later than Wednesday 12 August 2026. There is no right for you (or any other person) to seek a waiver of this time limit.

The Fast-track Team will forward copies of any comments received to New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and the Panel.

If you comment on the application, the Panel will also invite you to comment on the draft conditions at a later stage. If you do not comment on the application, you will be notified of the decision on the application when it is made.

Please note that 10 working days after this invitation to comment has been sent, the EPA may receive reports or advice under section 51 of the Act. These, as well as information requested by the panel under section 67, will be made available on the Fast-track website for the project on the Reports and advice page shortly after they are received.

Māori Consultation Groups1, that submit written comments may be entitled to a financial contribution under Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices, refer to the Fast-track webpage on applying for a contribution fee payment: https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/process/te-poka-pu-maori-maori-information-hub/whakahoki-korero-how-can-we-provide-feedback/applying-for-a-contribution-fee-payment.

Important information

Your personal information will be held by the EPA and used in relation to the project consent application process. You have the right to access and correct personal information held by the EPA. Certain information in relation to your comments on the application will become public as the EPA will publish a copy of your comments on the Fast-track website.

If you are a corporate entity making comments on this application, your full contact details will be publicly available. For individuals, your name will be publicly available, but your contact details (phone number, address, and email) will not be publicly available.

All information held by the EPA is subject to the Official Information Act 1982. If you believe any of the information you provide is confidential or sensitive and should be withheld from publication, please highlight the information concerned and provide an explanation to support your request for withholding it.

Minute of the Expert Panel

On 15 July 2026, the Panel released **Minute 3** regarding this invitation to comment. This Minute can be read on the Fast-track website:
https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/alternative-to-the-brynderwyn-hills/correspondence

Further Information

More information on the fast-track consenting process can be found at https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/

More information on commenting on Fast-track consenting can be found at https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/process/comments

If you have any questions please contact Jessie Richardson, Application Lead by email at substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Fast-track applications

Fast-track

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Your Comment on the Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email.

1. **Contact Details**	
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.	
Organisation name (if relevant)	New Zealand Game Animal Council
First name	Jenny
Last name	Wotten
Postal address	[redacted]

Home phone / Mobile phone	[redacted]	**Work phone**	
Email ***(a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)***	[redacted]		
2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
☐	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	☐	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

Thank you for your comments