
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Minute following the Convener Conference on 29th July 2025

Kings Quarry Expansion – Stage 2 - Expert Panel appointment and
decision time-frame

[FTAA-2502-1018]

30 July 2025

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the Expert Panel (**Kings Quarry Expert Panel**) appointments, including the timing of those appointments, and the decision timeframe.

[2] During the conference on 29th July 2025, I was advised by Auckland Council (**Council**) and the Applicant that ongoing engagement between the parties is occurring and will continue to occur. I was advised that the Council have a number of matters that it is seeking further information about and it was clear that the Applicant and the Council would confer over these. We also had a discussion about the ability of the Panel to request further information under section 67 FTAA.

[3] I was advised by the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) that there may be the need for an additional wildlife approval. Again, I was advised that the Applicant and the DOC would confer over this matter.

[4] Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara advised me that they have concerns regarding ecological matters. I was advised that the Applicant will continue to confer, and I was also advised that these matters will be brought to the attention of

the Kings Quarry Expert Panel at the appropriate time.

[5] During the conference timing was discussed and the participants were comfortable that the Kings Quarry Expert Panel commencement date for the purposes of section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2025 (**the Act**) would be **16th September 2025**. The participants were also comfortable with the Applicant's suggestion that the default period of 30 working days be extended by 7 working days making the decision due on **19th December 2025**. The decision due date is subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for receiving comments under section 53 of the Act being **29th October 2025**.

[6] In terms of the timing although the commencement date for the purpose of section 53 is 16th September I informed the participants that the Kings Quarry Expert Panel is due to commence work on the application earlier than this and it is likely that they will be looking to undertake a site visit and have the briefing / conference with the Applicant and other participants in the week of 18th August. The Panel members are not available late August/early September which necessitated the late commencement date for the purposes of section 53.

[7] In terms of the membership of the Kings Quarry Expert Panel I informed the participants of who I proposed to appoint to the Panel and no issues arose. It was clear to me that a three-member panel should suffice.

[8] As indicated at the conference I engage the following members to the Kings Quarry Expert Panel:

- (a) Chris Simmons as Chair;
- (b) Andrew Wilkinson;
- (c) Dr Martin Neale.

[9] As noted, the date the Kings Quarry Expert Panel will begin work will be the week starting 11th August 2025 (which is the date the Panel members confirm their appointment).

[10] With regard to the timing of the Kings Quarry Expert Panel's decision the following is relevant to my consideration:

- (a) I note that Council and the Applicant have fully engaged and that further collaborative discussions are proposed.
- (b) I note that DOC and the Applicant will confer with regards to the matters raised at the conference.
- (c) I note that Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara and the Applicant will confer with regards to the matters raised at the conference.
- (d) Although the application contains significant experts reports and evidence it is not considered to be legally, evidentially or factually complex.
- (e) The Kings Quarry Expert Panel has the power to request further information and reports under section 67 of the Act and the power to appoint special and/or technical advisors under clause 10 of Schedule 3 of the Act.
- (f) Once the time for the decision is set under section 79 of the Act, I am not able to extend that time.
- (g) Given the early start of the Kings Quarry Expert Panel, it was agreed that not a considerable amount of time after the default time of 30 working days after the date for receiving comments was required. To ensure there is sufficient time and to ensure that a decision is issued before the Christmas / New Year closure I consider that the default period should be extended to 37 working days. No participants took issue with this timeframe.

[11] After carefully considering all these matters, I propose to extend the timeframe for the Kings Quarry Expert Panel to issue the decision documents under section 79 to 37 working days. This means the decision documents will be due on **19th December 2025** subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for receiving comments under section 53 of the Act being **29th October 2025**.

[12] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Kings Quarry Expert Panel after their appointment date.

[13] I thank the participants for their engagement and assistance at the Conference, it is greatly appreciated.



Helen Atkins
Associate panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024