From: Chris Wedding < <a href="mailto:chris.wedding@bioresearches.co.nz">chris.wedding@bioresearches.co.nz</a>>

Sent: 29 September 2025 17:47

To: Jessica Urquhart

Cc: YOUNG, Jo ; Natalie Summerfield Bal Matheson

Subject: Fw: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

all agreed with DoC, including removal of mouse control-we will update our responses as below.

Cheers.

### Get Outlook for Android

From: Amelia Wilkinson Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 5:43:05 PM

To: Chris Wedding Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Jessica Urquhart

; YOUNG, Jo

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Chris,

Thanks for the information below, it was helpful discussing this with you last week and we appreciate you have taken our comments on board.

Our technical advisor is satisfied with the suggestions below (ecostacks, release site, mouse control), in particular the transfer of epiphytes as part of the ecostacks will be particularly valuable as these now provide more plausible refuges for the arboreal species. We would like to see these changes reflected in the LMP.

We would be happy to discuss the details of these further if you are able to provide any more information about what might be proposed and where in the site (e.g for a mouse control trigger). We would be supportive of the use of the alternative release site you have identified, providing it received the same protections as that detailed in the LMP. Again we would be happy to review any specific plans/information.

I can see you have amended the conditions to reflect a new term of 15 years. DOC is supportive of this although notes it is a substantial increase from the proposed certified term.

The attached conditions document has a couple of suggested edits highlighted in blue.

Ngā mihi,

### Amelia Wilkinson (she/her)

Permissions Advisor Fast Track Applications Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House Phone: +64 4 909 0561

www.doc.govt.nz

From: Chris Wedding

Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 3:38 pm

To: Amelia Wilkinson

Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

; Jessica Urguhart

: YOUNG. Jo

Hi Amelia.

Please find attached the Wildlife Approval conditions with the applicant amendments, following our meeting on 23 September (highlighted in yellow). Would be possible to get back to us by the end of Friday, such that we could then consider any additional comments and be in a position to provide the most up to date version to the Panel on 1 October?

Many thanks.

Chris Wedding | Bioresearches

Associate, Ecology Manager

www.bioresearches.co.nz

**Babbage Consultants Limited** 

From: Chris Wedding

Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 12:14 PM

To: 'Amelia Wilkinson'

Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries : Jessica Urguhart : YOUNG. Jo

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Hi Amelia.

Lovely to touch base with you again, and discuss the Drury Quarry Sutton Block FT application regarding lizards. As discussed, I talked through the attached information, detailing lizard survey coverage and results, the grazed condition across the site (including understoreys) and the few copper skinks encountered.

I have assessed the effects on lizard values as low, following capture and relocation in accordance with the lizard management plan. The Project however, provides offset (62 ha of revegetation and 108 hectares pest control) for the loss of 16.78 ha forest fragments. The offset is guided by an offset accounting model that includes habitat descriptors (leaf litter depth & coarse woody debris development, winter fruiting and flowering plant species) that would benefit native fauna, including lizards.

The planting would connect isolated, high value fragments, where older growth fragments may support alternative relocation sites for species such as pacific gecko and (very unlikely), striped skink.

### Provision of a greater number of ecostacks, and in advance of vegetation removal

We would be happy to accommodate this.

We anticipate that such ecostacks would be provided by material onsite, and as such the earliest stages of the Project would rely on felled material to supply ecostacks, however stages 2-5 (years 1-15) may have a shorter advance provision than larger areas of forest fragment, which are not proposed to be removed until indicative stages 4 &5 (years 40+) by which time all offset planting, dense buffer planting around the current proposed release site, would be no less than 25 years old.

# Inclusion of pacific gecko

My expectation for this project, is that copper skinks, forest gecko and pacific gecko are most likely to be encountered, with the latter species potentially occurring in epiphytic vegetation that would be transferred with ecostacks to receptor sites. I would therefore like to have pacific gecko included in any wildlife approval associated with this project. Note that I have also supplied additional images of the currently identified receptor site, but also alternative sites that would be connected and enhanced as part of the project offset, which the Department may consider better suited to species such as pacific gecko (or less likely), striped skink.

# **Term of Approval**

As discussed, I acknowledge that the Department of Conservation would expect the holder to apply for a variation beyond 10 years, which could provide for any improvements to best practice methods etc. I request that the initial term be provided for 15 years, to align with the indicative stage 1&2, which accommodates a contiguous strip of vegetation at the early stage of the project.

#### Mouse control

As discussed, the project has been assessed as having a low-level effect on native lizard values, given consideration to the degraded condition of the forest fragments and low encounter rates of copper skinks as per the outcome of surveys. Further, copper skinks are regularly encountered in newly revegetated environments, and including rough grasses on roadside berms and urban gardens. On this basis, application of mouse control to the 108 ha of proposed enhancement is not considered commensurate with the effect. We could consider localised mouse control as a trigger for unexpected / higher values.

Many thanks.

Chris Wedding | Bioresearches

Associate, Ecology Manager

www.bioresearches.co.nz

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From: Amelia Wilkinson

Sent: Thursday, 18 September 2025 4:58 PM

To: Chris Wedding

Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries ; Jessica Urquhart

ca Urquhart ; YOUNG, Jo

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Chris,

Thanks for reaching out, our team would be very happy to meet with you to discuss these points further.

Tuesday 23rd would be work best for the team, please let me know if any of the following times would suit you:

10-11am

12-3pm

4.15-5pm

Ngā mihi,

# Amelia Wilkinson (she/her)

Permissions Advisor Fast Track Applications Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

Phone: +64 4 909 0561 www.doc.govt.nz

From: Chris Wedding

Sent: Wednesday, 17 September 2025 4:08 pm

To: Amelia Wilkinson

Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries >; Jessica Urquhart

; YOUNG, Jo

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Amelia,

We recently received DOC's FTA wildlife approval report for FTAA-2503-1037 Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Block. Thank you for the detailed response and for raising further matters for addressment. I'm confident that we can resolve most of these these to DOC's satisfaction, though in particular I would like to query the recommendation for mouse control, on the basis of limited lizard distribution and existing degraded habitats within the project area, but provided we increase provision of advanced ecostacks would this be acceptable? In the Auckland Region, copper skinks are relatively common and widespread, and readily colonise recently disturbed environments, including rough grasses and urban gardens.

- 1. Mouse control
- 2. Staging / advance provision and increase of ecostacks
- 3. Removal of pacific gecko and striped skink
- 4. WA term to 10 years

I could be available to discuss these matters, and our proposed response to them at your convenience prior to Wednesday next week if that works for you team?

Many thanks, I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Wedding | Bioresearches

Associate, Ecology Manager

www.bioresearches.co.nz

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From: Amelia Wilkinson

Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 3:56 PM

To: Chris Wedding

Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries ; Jessica Urquhart ; YOUNG, Jo

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Chris,

Thank you for providing this information. DOC is satisfied that our original concerns regarding sufficiency of information raised during consultation on completeness have been resolved in the amended documents. To ensure the Panel is fully informed in their decision this information should be submitted via the EPA if this has not already been done.

DOC will provide any further comments on the wildlife approval in the report prepared under section 51 of the Act.

Ngā mihi,

# Amelia Wilkinson (she/her)

Permissions Advisor Fast Track Applications Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House Phone: +64 4 909 0561

www.doc.govt.nz

From: Chris Wedding

Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 2:55 pm

To: Amelia Wilkinson

Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries Jessica Urquhart

YOUNG, Jo

Subject: FW: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Amelia,

Just following up on the matter of the lizard management amendments that were discussed and supplied as below and reattached here for your convenience. Is the DOC comfortable that these matters are resolved?

Most happy to meet again to discuss further if required.

Ngā mihi,

Chris Wedding | Bioresearches

Associate, Ecology Manager

www.bioresearches.co.nz

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From: Chris Wedding

Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2025 11:26 AM

To: Amelia Wilkinson

Cc: YOUNG, Jo Jessica Urquhart ; FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Michael Anderson

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Amelia,

Thank you for following up with us. Attached you will find our revised EMP, including a clean version and another with comments highlighting where we have made amendments relating to DOC's feedback. In particular, we have made the following changes to section 5 (Lizard Plan):

Altered salvage season to Oct-April

Removed mention of Motutapu Island

Added information provided to DOC by Chris as requested

Added additional relevant details and referencing, largely from the Net Gain Delivery Plan: Pest and Weed Control (document E7:9)

For context, the Net Gain Delivery Plans refer to site-wide planting and pest management that have been determined from biodiversity offset modelling- Figure 5 in the attached project summary (part of the substantive application) provides a useful summary of how the LMP fits into the wider ecological package.

Please let me know if there are any further clarifications needed.

Ngā mihi,

Chris Wedding | Bioresearches

Associate, Ecology Manager

www.bioresearches.co.nz

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From: Amelia Wilkinson

Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2025 9:46 AM

To: Michael Anderson

Cc: YOUNG, Jo ; Jessica Urquhart ; FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Chris Wedding

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Michael,

I understand that your colleague Chris Wedding was intending to send me a revised document relating to the Drury Quarry Expansion fast-track application.

This has not yet been received, and I realise that he may be on leave currently.

DOC is required to provide a response about any outstanding matters regarding the wildlife approval to the Panel Convener by Monday 21 July. To inform this can you confirm whether or not DOC is likely to receive this information prior to Monday.

Ngā mihi,

# Amelia Wilkinson (she/her)

Permissions Advisor Fast Track Applications
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
Phone: +64 4 909 0561

www.doc.govt.nz

From: Chris Wedding

Sent: Friday, 4 July 2025 4:19 pm

To: Amelia Wilkinson

Cc: YOUNG, Jo

; FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Michael Anderson <

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Amelia,

Thank you so much for your response, and great to hear that your Tech Advisor is satisfied with the information in the substantive application. We will work towards having a tracked LMP back with you by mid-next week, and hopefully this will be in advance of the EPA panel appointment!

I've also cc'd Michael Anderson, who will get in touch with you should he need to clarify anything further, as I will be on leave.

Ngā mihi,

Chris

Chris Wedding | Bioresearches

Associate, Ecology Manager

www.bioresearches.co.nz

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From: Amelia Wilkinson

Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2025 3:29 PM

To: Chris Wedding

Cc: YOUNG, Jo ; Jessica Urquhart

; FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Thanks Chris,

I have provided this information to our technical advisor. They are satisfied with the sufficiency of the information provided it is incorporated into the LMP. This is not currently the case and is what led us to our initial assessment of insufficiency, in particular no reference is made to the Net Gain Delivery Plan-Pest and Weed Control (E7.9) document within the wildlife approval documents.

In order for DOC to consider this information in its reports, and for the Panel to locate all of the information required it is recommended a revised version of the EMP (E3.9) with changes tracked be provided to DOC and the Panel (once appointed).

The following changes are recommended:

Amendments to the salvage season identified

Clarification/removal of information suggesting Motutapu Island as a release site for geckos (if this is an intended release site, additional information will be required – including a map (FTAA Schedule 7 s2(1)(h)))

Addition of the information provided below about staging and relocation decisions.

All information requirements for the lizard wildlife approval specified be consolidated within section 5 including methods, enhancement, and release site details. If this is not possible, the information should be clearly referenced between documents.

Please also note that while this is addressed elsewhere in the application documents, the information requirements for the 'activity or 'proposed activity' (FTAA Schedule 7 section 2(1)(a)) should address the activities for which the wildlife approval is sough, not the activity of the project.

I would be happy to discuss this further if required so please get in touch if you have any further questions.

Ngā mihi,

# Amelia Wilkinson (she/her)

Permissions Advisor Fast Track Applications
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

Phone: +64 4 909 0561 www.doc.govt.nz

From: Chris Wedding

Sent: Tuesday, 24 June 2025 12:28 pm

To: Amelia Wilkinson

Cc: YOUNG, Jo ; Jessica Urquhart

>; FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora Amelia,

Thank you for reaching out. I haven't received any feedback from DOC regarding completeness, however I trust the following additional detail addresses your initial information requirements.

schedule 7, clause 2(1)(b) to the FTAA 2024 requires an application for a wildlife approval to identify the actions the applicant wishes to carry out and clause 2 (1)

(h) requires the identification of where they will be carried out. The release locations for the activity of relocating potentially salvaged lizards has not been identified in sufficient detail, and the methods to minimise effects in these sites has not been provided.

The release location is identified and mapped in Figure 7 of ecology document E3.9 (EMP), and forms a large part of the 108.35 ha area of existing adjacent forest that will be covenanted and pest-controlled- this map additionally identifies a 20 m buffer edge of enhanced forest that is expected to receive relocated lizards. This forest area is described in section 5 of ecology document E7.9 (Net Gain Delivery Plan- Pest and Weed Control) as a significant tract of recovering and regenerating native forest (SNA/SEA T 5323) which lies outside the Special Purpose Quarry Zone (SPQZ) to the north and east of the proposed Sutton Pit Project area and is within SAL ownership. It consists of a mosaic of regenerating kanuka forest and taraire, tawa, and podocarp forest. Surveys of lizards in 2020 and 2021 (and mapped in figures 12 and 13 of document E2.9 (EcIA)) recorded low numbers of copper skinks only; however, this vegetation has the potential to support a diversity of up to three skink and three gecko species that have not been recorded here (refer table 17, Section 3.2.3 of document E2.9). Specific receptor locations along this buffer edge have not been identified in maps. This is because the proposal covers five stages over 50 years, and while the habitat suitability across this area is predicted to substantially improve with pest management (e.g. vegetation ground cover, leaf litter depth and dead wood are modelled as fauna habitat indicators, using a BOAM and reported in document E4.6 Residual Effects Analysis Report), these decisions are better informed at the time of relocation and based on:

- 1. Proximity to the affected stage
- 2 where other lizards have been released following management, and
- 3. where microhabitats are determined to be most suitable for the species at the time of management.

Further, additional ecostacks will be provided as supplementary refuges (refer Figure 8 / Table 8 of document E3.9 (EMP) and lizard monitoring and associated reporting will be provided targeting relevant parameters (Section 5.4, document E3.9)

In addition, release site management strategies appropriate for all species of lizard identified have not been provided (noting that each species have different habitat and micro habitat requirements)

- o DOC anticipates a panel may require this information to be provided during the process to make its decision on the wildlife approval.
- o DOC acknowledges the methods as set out in the Lizard Management Plan (LMP) anticipate that relocation sites (including suitable habitat) will be identified for Lizards salvaged on the project site.
- o DOC notes that finding and establishing suitable relocation sites for lizards can be a time-consuming process but would be a fundamental part of a suitable (or giving effect to a suitable) lizard management plan.
- o We also note that the application identified an inconsistent salvage season, and we are of the view that undertaking salvage from October to April inclusive is the effective way to avoid, minimise or remedy adverse effects.

Section 5.2.1 of document E3.9 (EMP- lizard management plan) states that "This Plan may only be enacted between October 1 and April 30, and during fine, settled weather

when native lizards in the Auckland Region" however we acknowledge that elsewhere in this document, the period September - May is referred to (which is consistent with an existing Wildlife Authority). I'm happy to discuss this further, and other matters as required, with your technical experts.

Thank you again for reaching out- please don't hesitate to get in touch with me regarding any other matters that DOC wish to raise or receive further clarity on.

Ngā mihi,

Chris Wedding | Bioresearches

**Babbage Consultants Limited** 

Associate, Ecology Manager

0274795418

www.bioresearches.co.nz

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From: YOUNG, Jo

Sent: Monday, 23 June 2025 11:43 AM

To: Amelia Wilkinson

Cc: Chris Wedding

Subject: RE: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Hi Amelia

You had Chris's email address incorrect. Just sending this through to him now. We'll respond to you shortly

Thanks

Jo

From: Amelia Wilkinson

Sent: Monday, 23 June 2025 10:54 am

To:

Subject: Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block - DOC response to completeness

Kia ora koutou,

I sent this to Chris on Thursday but copying you all in.

We have been informed that the application for Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block is progressing through fast-track has now reached its next stage -Panel Appointment.

In our experience, there is usually a panel convenor conference before this stage. Before this conference, we wanted to check if you had received our feedback on completeness from the EPA.

Within this feedback we outlined some information we think a panel is going to need to progress a decision on your application in relation to your wildlife approval.

Specifically, in DOC's view:

schedule 7, clause 2(1)(b) to the FTAA 2024 requires an application for a wildlife approval to identify the actions the applicant wishes to carry out and clause 2 (1)(h) requires the identification of where they will be carried out. The release locations for the activity of relocating potentially salvaged lizards has not been identified in sufficient detail, and the methods to minimise effects in these sites has not been provided.

In addition, release site management strategies appropriate for all species of lizard identified have not been provided (noting that each species have different habitat and micro habitat requirements).

- o DOC anticipates a panel may require this information to be provided during the process to make its decision on the wildlife approval.
- o DOC acknowledges the methods as set out in the Lizard Management Plan (LMP) anticipate that relocation sites (including suitable habitat) will be identified for Lizards salvaged on the project site.
- o DOC notes that finding and establishing suitable relocation sites for lizards can be a time-consuming process but would be a fundamental part of a suitable (or giving effect to a suitable) lizard management plan.
- o We also note that the application identified an inconsistent salvage season, and we are of the view that undertaking salvage from October to April inclusive is the effective way to avoid, minimise or remedy adverse effects.

We would like to work with you to address this feedback prior to panel appointment/as the application progresses. This is how we have similarly approached other applications in progress. Whilst we may have further commentary to discuss as we draft our Section 51 report/Section 53 comments, it would be good to work on these issues as early as possible. Please let me know your thoughts/any questions, I look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi,

### Amelia Wilkinson

On behalf of the Fast Track Applications team Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House 18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

www.doc.govt.nz



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