

Memorandum on Completeness and Scope

File	FTAA-2606-1251
Application	Oparure Quarry South-Western Pit
To	Ben Bond, Team Leader LOA
From	
Date	7 August 2026
Subject	Assessment whether the application complies with section 46(2) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memo is to assist you in making your decision on whether the Oparure Quarry South-Western Pit application, lodged by Graymont (NZ) Limited (**the Applicant**), received by the Fast-track Team on 17 July 2026 complies with the requirements of section 46(2) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**the Act**).

Decision-maker

2. You have delegated authority to make the decision under section 46 of the Act under the instrument of delegation dated 31 March 2026.

Conflict of interest

3. I confirm that I do not have any conflict of interest in this matter that would prevent me making this assessment.

The application

4. For projects listed in Schedule 2 of the Act and referred projects, authorised persons may lodge a substantive application for approvals available under the Act.

5. The Application was referred by the Minister for inclusion in the Fast-track consenting process under section 28 of the Act. The Minister accepted the referral application on 25 May 2026 and notified the EPA of the decision on the referral application on 2 June 2026.
6. The Application was lodged on 17/07/2026. The EPA must, in consultation with the relevant administering agencies and relevant consent authorities, decide whether this substantive application complies with section 46 of the Act within 15 working days of the lodgement of the application (but may be longer where the EPA has requested further information from the applicant under section 46(2B)). This application was not subject to a further information request.
7. As set out in more detail below, the EPA must decide whether the application is complete and either:
 - if complete and within scope: undertake the competing applications and, if applicable, existing resource consents for the same activity check in section 47A and, if passed, notify the panel convener they can set up a panel to make a decision on the application (section 47B(2)(a)) and notify the applicant in writing that the panel convener has been notified (section 47B(2)(b)); or
 - return it to the person who lodged it (if incomplete and/or not within scope).

Project and Scope

8. The referred project is described in the Minister's referral decision as:

To expand an existing limestone quarrying operation, including the development, operation and progressive rehabilitation of the new south-western pit at the existing Ōparure Quarry located at 806 Ōparure Road, Te Kūiti.

The project involves:

- a. *the establishment of a new 1.3 kilometre (km) haul road to the project area*
- b. *upon access being completed, the commencement of resource extraction in stages*
- c. *infill with the overburden sourced from the following stage*
- d. *landscape restoration to a natural form and reinstatement to productive farmland.*

The project will require the proposed approvals under specified Acts:

- a. *resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).*

9. The application is described on page 43 on the substantive application as:

- *The Project entails the development, operation and progressive rehabilitation of the new SW Pit at Graymont's existing Oparure Quarry.*
- *The SW Pit would be located adjacent, on the western side, to the existing Oparure Quarry pit, and would continue to use the same main access road, office facilities, material storage facilities and water sources currently operating at the quarry.*
- *Quarrying at the SW Pit would be, as at the existing pit, opencast.*

- *The area to be disturbed over the lifetime of the SW Pit would be 59.6 ha by approximately 2080. However, only small sections would be quarried at a time in stages and then rehabilitated.*
 - *Mining infrastructure associated with the SW Pit would include a 1.3 km haul road.*
10. The clearing, infill and restoration steps of the project are described on page 45 of the substantive application as:
- *After vegetation on the section of a quarry stage is cleared, topsoil will be removed and stored in stockpiles.*
 - *Overburden below the topsoil will be removed, generally during dry periods, to expose the underlying limestone resource.*
 - *Overburden will be placed into the pits from previous quarrying stages (initially in the current pit, then backfilled into the SW Pit) to restore the landscape to a natural form and then covered with the topsoil to reinstate productive farmland.*
11. The application relates solely to the referred project as the project description in the substantive application is in line with the description in the referral decision, and the application only seeks resource consents under the RMA.

Fast-track consenting application process

Legislative context

12. The EPA must decide, in consultation with relevant administering agencies and consent authorities, whether the substantive application complies with section 46(2) of the Act. A substantive application complies with section 46(2) of the Act, if:
- the application complies with sections 42, 43 and 44;
 - the application relates solely to a listed project or a referred project;
 - the EPA considers that, on the face of the application, the project does not appear to involve an ineligible activity; and
 - any fee, charge, or levy payable under the Fast-track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025 (**the Regulations**) in respect of the application is paid.
13. The EPA may request further information from the applicant under section 46(2A) for the purposes of determining whether the application is complete and within scope.

Section 42 Requirements

14. Section 42 of the Act states that an authorised person may lodge a substantive application for the project or, 1 substantive applications for each stage of a project if the Minister has determined that the project may proceed in stages (either under section 21(1)(a) or section 37A). Section 42(4) lists the approvals that may be sought under the Act.

15. This application has been lodged by Graymont (NZ) Limited. This person is an authorised person under the Act because they are the same specified person listed in the Minister's referral decision under section 27(2).
16. The approval being sought is:
 - a. An approval described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent) **checklist A**.
17. The approval listed above is of the type set out in section 42(4) of the Act.
18. For the approval sought, the applicant is eligible to apply for any corresponding approval under a specified Act.

Section 43 Requirements

19. Section 43 of the Act sets out the requirements for a substantive application. The substantive application was lodged in the form and manner approved by the EPA. Assessment of section 43 requirements is included at Appendix 1.

Section 44 Requirements

20. Section 44 of the Act requires that the information provided by the applicant under section 43 must be specified in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required. Assessment of section 44 sufficiency is included at Appendix 1.
21. In assessing the sufficiency of information provided by the applicant, we rely on the information provided to us through consultation with each relevant administering agency and relevant consent authority, as summarised in Appendix 2.
22. As set out in more detail in Appendix 2, the agencies consulted have advised that the information required by section 44 is provided in **sufficient** detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required.

Ineligibility

23. The EPA needs to decide whether it considers that, on the face of the application, the project does not appear to involve an ineligible activity, as defined in section 5 of the Act. As the EPA has to consider this on the face of the application, the EPA is only able to consider information contained in the application materials.
24. The list of ineligible projects includes activities:
 - on land returned under a Treaty settlement, on identified Māori Land, on Māori customary land, on land set apart as Māori reservation, or in a customary marine title or protected customary rights area without written permission from the rights holder;
 - on Māori customary land, or land set apart as Māori reservation under Part 17 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993;
 - in a customary marine or protected customary rights area without written agreement from the rights holder/group;
 - within an aquaculture settlement area without the required authorisation;

- activities that would be prevented under section 165J, 165M, 165Q, 165ZC, or 165ZDB of the RMA (which deal with occupation of space in the common marine and coastal area); or
- that require permissions on national reserves (or reserves vest in another person) held under the Reserves Act 1977 ; or
- on land listed under clauses 1 to 11 or 14 of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (and clauses 12 and 13 for mining activities).
- That are prohibited under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012, or section 15B or 15C the Resource Management Act 1991.
- That relate to decommissioning under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012
- That are undertaken for the purposes of an offshore renewable energy project.

25. I consider that, on the face of the application, the project does not appear to involve an ineligible activity.

Fees and levies

26. The EPA has received all fees, charges and levies payable by the applicant under the Regulations for the substantive application as follows:

- Application fee in the sum of \$250,000 plus GST;
- Levy in the sum of \$140,000 plus GST.

Consultation

27. I have consulted with and considered consultation responses from the following relevant administering agencies and relevant consent authorities:

- Waikato Regional Council and Waitomo District Council for an approval described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent)

28. A summary of the consultation is included as Appendix 2.

Assessment of compliance for each section of each application form

29. I have assessed the application materials against the relevant checklists in the prescribed application form. Each assessment is contained within the appropriate approval checklist. These are included in Appendix 1 for ease of reference.

30. My view is that the application does comply with section 46 and the EPA may now notify the applicant of its decision.

31. The EPA must now decide whether the substantive application has a competing application under section 47A(1) (under delegation from the Minister for Infrastructure under section 47C) within 10 working days from the date of the completeness decision.

32. Once the EPA has made the decision under section 47A(1), the EPA must notify the panel convener that an expert consenting panel can be set up to commence consideration and decision of the application.

Appendix 1: Assessment of section 44 sufficiency

My assessment of the application materials is set out in the relevant checklists below:

CHECKLIST A – Resource consent, change to or cancellation of a resource consent

Clause, Schedule 5	Information required for an approval described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent) and/or section 42(4)(b) (change or cancellation of resource consent), Clauses 5-8 of Schedule 5	Application Reference	EPA
5(1)(a)	A description of the proposed activity	Section 4 of the Substantive Application Report ('SAR') provides a description of the proposed activity.	Yes, addressed. See section 4, starting p.43.
5(1)(b)	A description and map of the site at which the activity is to occur, including whether the site is within or adjacent to— (i) a statutory area (as defined in the relevant Treaty settlement Act); or (ii) ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (as defined in section 11 of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019); or	A description and maps of the Site are provided in Section 3.1 of the SAR. Statutory Areas are discussed in Section 3.3 of the SAR.	Yes, addressed. See p.24-25 for a description and map, and section 3.3, p.29 for statutory areas. The project is not within or adjacent to ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou or a protected customary rights area (section 3.4-

	(iii) a protected customary rights area under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011	Ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou does not apply to the Project as set out in Section 3.4. Section 3.5 records that the Site does not affect any Coastal Marine Areas.	5, p.32 of the substantive application.
5(1)(c)	Confirmation that the consent application complies with section 46(2)(a), (b), and (d); being: • section 42; and • sections 43 and 44; and • relates solely to a listed project or a referred project; and • any fee, charge, or levy payable under regulations in respect of the application is paid.	As discussed in Section 2.4, the Application relates solely to a referred project. (Section 46(2)(b)). There are no	Yes, addressed. s42) section 2.4 on p.22 s43(1)(b)(i) section 9 p.97 s43(1)(b)(ii) Executive summary p. iii and section 4.4 p.44 s43(1)(c) section 2.1 p.21

		differences from the notice in the Minister's decision under section 28 (See Appendix A). The Application complies with all of the requirements for the approvals(s) sought as indicated in this checklist.	s43(1)(e) section 2.4 p.22 s43(1)(h) section 2.2 on p.21 All other relevant sections addressed.
5(1)(d) and 5(6)	The full name and address of— (i) each owner of the site and of land adjacent to the site; and (ii) each occupier of the site and of land adjacent to the site whom the applicant is able to identify after reasonable inquiry;	Section 3.1 of the SAR sets out the owners of the Site. Three adjacent properties are Maori land for	Yes, addressed. See section 3.1, p.24 for site owners. See section 3.2, p.27 for adjacent landowners.

	If the applicant is not able to supply the name and address of the owner and each occupier of the site and of land adjacent to the site because the land is Māori land in multiple ownership, the applicant must include a statement to that effect (clause 5(6)).	which full owner and occupier information has not been obtained. Section 3.2 addresses the owners of land adjacent to the Site. There are no occupiers of the Site and land adjacent to the Site that Graymont has been unable to identify after reasonable	The applicant has stated in this checklist and p.2 of Appendix B that <i>“three adjacent properties are Māori land for which full owner and occupier information has not been obtained.”</i> The applicant has also stated on p.27 of the substantive application that consultation with the owners and occupiers of the three Māori land parcels is happening via Oparure Marae.
--	---	---	---

		inquiry.	
5(1)(e)	A description of any other activities that are part of the proposal to which the consent application relates	Graymont is applying for all necessary consents relevant to the SW Pit Project. The consents being applied for are addressed in Section 5.1 of the SAR.	Yes, addressed.
5(1)(f)	A description of any other resource consents, notices of requirement for designations, or alterations to designations required for the project to which the consent application relates	Not applicable – no other approvals are required as discussed in Section 2.6 of the SAR.	Yes, addressed. See section 2.6, p.22-23 of the substantive application. The approvals mentioned are not resource consents, notices of requirement for designations, or alterations to designations.
5(1)(g)	An assessment of the activity against sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Resource Management Act 1991	An assessment of the activity against the RMA	Yes, addressed.

		is addressed in Section 9.3 of the SAR.	Section 5 of the RMA: Section 9.3 on p.102-103 Section 6 of the RMA: Section 9.3 on p.98-100 Section 7 of the RMA: Section 9.3 on p.100-102
5(1)(h) (and also clauses 5(2) and 5(3))	An assessment of the activity against any relevant provisions in any of the following documents: • a national environmental standard: • other regulations made under the Resource Management Act 1991: • a national policy statement: • a New Zealand coastal policy statement: • a regional policy statement or proposed regional policy statement: • a plan or proposed plan: • a planning document recognised by a relevant iwi authority and lodged with a local authority. This assessment must include an assessment of the activity against the requirements set out in clause 5(3) of Schedule 5 being:	An assessment of the activity against any relevant provisions in any of the documents set out in the adjacent column is addressed in Section 9.0, specifically sections 9.4 to 9.12 of the SA R.	Yes, addressed. In the substantive application: Section 9.4, from p.105 – National Policy Statements Section 9.5, from p.106 – National Environment Standards Section 9.6, from p.107 – Waikato Regional Policy Statement Section 9.7, from p.112 – Waikato Regional Plan Section 9.8, p.116 – Regional Coastal Environmental Plan (N/A)

	- any relevant objectives, policies or rules in the documents listed; and - any requirement, condition, or permission in any rules in any of those documents; and - any other requirements in any of those documents.		Section 9.9, from p.116 – Proposed Waitomo District Plan Section 9.10, from p.119 – Operative Waitomo District Plan Section 9.11, from p.120 – Te Ture Whaimana Section 9.12, from p.121 – Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan
5(1)(i)	Information about any Treaty settlements that apply in the area covered by the consent application, including— (i) identification of the relevant provisions in those Treaty settlements; and (ii) a summary of any redress provided by those settlements that affects natural and physical resources relevant to the project or project area	Information about any Treaty settlements that apply in the area covered by the Application is addressed in Section 3.3 of the SAR.	See section 3.3, p.29-31, and section 9.12, p.121-122 of the substantive application.
5(1)(j)	A list of any relevant customary marine title groups, protected customary rights groups, ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (where an	Not applicable - as highlighted in	N/A

	application is within, adjacent to or directly affecting ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou), or applicants under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011;	Section 3.5 of the SAR.	
5(1)(k)	Any conditions that the applicant proposes for the resource consent.	The draft conditions are addressed in Section 8 of the SAR and attached as Appendix T (T1 – Draft WRC Conditions and T2 – Draft WDC Conditions).	Yes, addressed. See Appendix T1 and T2.
5(1)(l)	if a notice under section 30(3)(b) or (5) has been received,— (i) a copy of that notice showing that it was received within the time frame specified in section 30(6)(b); and (ii) if a notice has been received under section 30(5), any more up-to-date information that the applicant is aware of about the existing resource consent referred to in the notice.	Refer to Appendix C (page 13) attached to the SAR.	Yes, addressed. See p.15 of Appendix C. The application has been lodged within 3 months of the date of the notice (22 June 2026).

5(4)(a)	An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that includes the information required by clause 6.	An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that includes information required by clause 6 is addressed in Section 7.0 of the SAR.	Yes, addressed.
5(4)(b)	An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that covers the matters specified in clause 7.	An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that includes matters specified in clause 7 is addressed in Section 7.0 of the SAR	Yes, addressed.

6	(i) The assessment of an activity's effects on the environment must include the following information: (a) an assessment of the actual or potential effects on the environment; (ii) if the activity includes the use of hazardous installations, an assessment of any risks to the environment that are likely to arise from such use: (b) if the activity includes the discharge of any contaminant, a description of— (i) the nature of the discharge and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and (ii) any possible alternative methods of discharge, including discharge into any other receiving environment; (c) a description of the mitigation measures (including safeguards and contingency plans where relevant) to be undertaken to help prevent or reduce the actual or potential effect of the activity; (iii) identification of persons who may be affected by the activity and any response to the views of any persons consulted, including the views of iwi or hapū that have been consulted in relation to the proposal:	An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that includes the applicable information is addressed in Sections 4.12 and 7.0 of the SAR	Yes, addressed. Also, Appendix C - records of consultation. The Applicant has confirmed there are no hazardous installations proposed for this project. For completeness, hazardous substance storage will occur at the existing Oparure Quarry, however, this is covered by existing resource consents (and does not form part of the consents sought for the project). The storage and use of those hazardous substances is detailed in section 2.8 of the Pit and Haul Road Site Management Plan (Appendix U6).
---	---	--	--

	(d) if iwi or hapū elect not to respond when consulted on the proposal, any reasons that they have specified for that decision: (e) if the scale and significance of the activity's effects are such that monitoring is required, a description of how the effects will be monitored and by whom, if the activity is approved: (f) an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right.		
7	The assessment of an activity's effects on the environment must cover the following matters: (iv) any effect on the people in the neighbourhood and, if relevant, the wider community, including any social, economic, or cultural effects: (a) any physical effect on the locality, including landscape and visual effects: (b) any effect on ecosystems, including effects on plants or animals and physical disturbance of habitats in the vicinity: (c) any effect on natural and physical resources that have aesthetic, recreational, scientific, historical, spiritual, or cultural value, or other special value, for present or future generations:	An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that includes matters specified in clause 7 is addressed in Section 7.0 of the SAR.	Yes, addressed. Also, Appendix C- records of consultation. The Applicant has confirmed there are no hazardous installations proposed for this project. For completeness, hazardous substance storage will occur at the existing Oparure Quarry, however, this is covered by existing resource consents (and does not form part of the consents sought for the project). The storage and use of

	(d) any discharge of contaminants into the environment and options for the treatment and disposal of contaminants: (e) any unreasonable emission of noise: (v) any risk to the neighbourhood, the wider community, or the environment through natural hazards or hazardous installations.		those hazardous substances is detailed in section 2.8 of the Pit and Haul Road Site Management Plan (Appendix U6).
5(5)(a)	If a permitted activity is part of the proposal to which the consent application relates, a description that demonstrates that the activity complies with the requirements, conditions, and permissions for the permitted activity (so that a resource consent is not required for that activity under section 87A(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991)	Refer to Section 5.2 of the SAR, which addresses permitted activities relied upon.	Yes, addressed. See section 5.2, p.53 of the substantive application.
5(5)(b)	If the activity is to occur in an area that is within the scope of a planning document prepared by a customary marine title group under section 85 of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 or the environmental covenant prepared by ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou under section 19 of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019, an assessment of the activity against any resource management matters set out in that document	Not applicable	N/A
5(5)(c)	If the activity is to occur in an area that is taiāpure-local fishery, a mātaihai reserve, or an area that is subject to bylaws made	Not applicable	N/A

	under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996, an assessment of the effects of the activity on the use or management of the area.		
--	--	--	--

Appendix 2: Consultation Summary

The following agencies were consulted with to inform the assessment of the application for completeness. Each agency was requested to confirm whether the application documentation provided by the EPA regarding the proposal as provided by the applicant meets the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Act and is provided in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose of the Act in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

- 1. Consultation with Waikato Regional Council and Waitomo District Council** as the relevant consent authorities for the following approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991:

- Resource consent (section 42(4)(a) of the Act)

Waikato Regional Council response:

WRC staff have reviewed the application documents and consider that it meets the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Act and further, staff are of the view that the applicant's documents provide sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which they are required, in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

Section 30 Confirmation

Further, I can confirm the written notice provided under section 30(3)(b), dated 22 June 2026, prepared by the Waikato Regional Council, remains accurate as of the date of this letter.

Waitomo District Council response:

I have been involved with the application as a consultant to the Waitomo District Council since 2022 when the Oparure Quarry South Western Pit was originally lodged as an application under the RMA. I have completed a number of site visits to the quarry and the surrounding area and have been involved in a number of technical meetings with the applicant over the time period of 2022 to 2025. The FTAA application is consistent with the application that was lodged under the RMA with some additional detailed information now provided in relation to the Camelot Cave System. The Ecological Betterment Plan also appears to be amended in line with the updated technical reports.

In my opinion, the applicant has provided all of the necessary information, in sufficient detail along with a comprehensive set of draft conditions and can be considered as complete under section 46 of the Act.