

4 August 2026

Warwick Pascoe
Principal Project Lead, Auckland Council


Dear Warwick,

Hunua Quarry Development Fast-track Substantive Application
489 Hunua Road, Hunua

Introduction

1. Watercare Services Limited (Watercare) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Hunua Quarry Development Fast-track substantive application (Application), made under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (Act).
2. Winstone Aggregates (a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited) (Applicant) proposes works at 489 Hunua Road, Hunua (Project Area) to expand and deepen the existing Symonds Hill Pit at Hunua Quarry to provide access to additional greywacke aggregate resource and support continued aggregate supply to the Auckland Region (the Project).
3. The zoning of the Project Area is Special Purpose – Quarry Zone and Rural – Mixed Rural Zone under the Auckland Unitary Plan – Operative in Part (AUP-OP).
4. Watercare's comments in this letter are based on the Application as at today's date, in particular the following lodged Application documents:
 - *Hunua Quarry Development Part B – Assessment of Environmental Effects and Application for Resource Consent – Dated 22 June 2026*
 - *Appendix A6.4 – Consultation Summary Report*
 - *Appendix B12.7 – Conditions*
 - *Appendix B12.8.12 – Groundwater Monitoring and Contingency Plan*
5. Any amendment to the Application will require further review from Watercare.

Watercare's purpose and statutory obligations

6. Watercare is New Zealand's largest provider of water and wastewater services, operating as a substantive council-controlled organisation owned by Auckland Council with the purpose embodied in the Māori whakatauki "*Ki te ora te wai, ka ora te whenua, ka ora te tangata*" (When the water is healthy, the land and the people are healthy), reflecting the connection between its services and the wellbeing of the community and local environment.
7. Watercare is required to manage its operations efficiently, with a focus on minimising overall costs while maintaining long-term asset integrity. These obligations are subject to economic regulation

under the Watercare Charter, with oversight provided by the Commerce Commission as the appointed Crown monitor.

8. Under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, Watercare must provide quality water services that are reliable and resilient and meet all regulatory requirements, including providing drinking water that is safe for consumers. Watercare is also required to use water resources efficiently when providing drinking water services.
9. The Water Services Act 2021 establishes the regulatory framework for drinking water suppliers and requires Watercare to maintain drinking water safety plans, comply with drinking water standards, and identify, manage and monitor risks to source water.

Watercare's comments

10. Watercare has considered the Application having regard to its role as Auckland's water and wastewater service provider, and in particular its responsibility to protect existing water supply assets, source water interests and the long-term resilience of Auckland's public water supply network.
11. Watercare operates the Hays Creek Dam, which forms part of Auckland's water supply network. The Hays Creek Dam contributes a comparatively small part of Auckland's total water consumption; however, it also represents a critical and vital part of the wider water supply network and 55,000 people rely on drinking water from the catchment. There has been significant capital investment in the Papakura Water Treatment Plant (**WTP**) over the last 10 years. The Papakura WTP abstracts raw untreated water from the Hays Creek Dam.
12. Watercare is responsible for managing and operating the region's public water supply and ensuring water supply resilience. In accordance with the Water Services Act 2021, Watercare is also legally obligated to ensure that clean and safe potable water supply is provided for Auckland.
13. The Hays Creek Dam is located upstream of the Project. While the Project is located outside the Hays Creek water supply catchment, Watercare has considered the potential effects of groundwater drawdown and changes in the stream baseflow on its water supply interests.
14. Based on the location of the Project, the supporting assessments and the proposed conditions, Watercare agrees that the dewatering associated with the Project is unlikely to have any effect on the Hays Creek Dam.
15. Condition 214 proposed in the Application is generally supported by Watercare subject to amendments set out below.

Comments on proposed conditions

16. Watercare proposes the following amendments to condition 214 and requests the inclusion of an additional monitoring reporting condition.

214. If Watercare Services Limited (WSL) notifies the Consent Holder and the Council that either WSL's or the Consent Holder's monitoring indicates that the drawdown authorised by this consent is having a potential adverse effect on the dam structure, the yield from the reservoir, or the stream flows, the Consent Holder must, within one month, commission an independent expert mutually agreed with WSL to review the relevant monitoring data, and, if the expert considers it necessary, procure further data, to enable a report to be prepared by the expert forthwith. The report is to state whether or not the potential adverse effects at WSL's facilities or the variations in WSL's or the Consent Holder's monitoring information are a result of the dewatering authorised by this consent. If the report states that the dewatering is:

(i) not causing the adverse effect or not causing the variation in monitoring information, no further action will be required of the Consent Holder; or

(ii) likely to be causing the adverse effect or causing the variation in monitoring information, the Consent Holder must, in consultation with the Council and WSL, identify options for avoiding, remedying or mitigating the potential adverse effects, and implement the method that represents the best practicable option for doing so, with all costs associated with the investigation, assessment, monitoring, mitigation and implementation of any required measures to be met by the Consent Holder.

(a) The Consent Holder shall provide WSL with copies of monitoring reports prepared in relation to Condition 214 at the same time as they are submitted to Auckland Council.

Conclusion

17. Watercare recognises the importance of quarry infrastructure to Auckland's growth and infrastructure delivery. Watercare's primary interest is ensuring that the Project does not adversely affect Watercare assets, water resources, source water interests or public water supply.
18. Based on the information reviewed, Watercare agrees that the Project is unlikely to have any effect on the Hays Creek Dam.
19. Watercare remains available to discuss these matters further.

Yours faithfully,



Sharon Danks
Head of Water
Watercare Services Limited

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