

MEMO

DATE: 09/09/2026

TO: David Allen, Hunua Quarry Expert Panel Chair

CC: Phemne Tancock; Nick Pollard on behalf of Winstone Aggregates

FROM: Emily Bayliss on behalf of DOC

SUBJECT: FTAA-2603 -1185 Minute 8 Response re offsetting and compensation for culvert loss

Via Panel Minute 8, dated 04 September 2026, the panel requests: *“The Department is also to suggest additional offset or compensation quantum it considers is required by the Applicant to appropriately compensate for its position in relation to the culverts (and the loss of that benefit).”*

Informed by the ecology workshop on 03 September, our legal memo and joint statement with Auckland Council, both dated 09 September, and ongoing discussions with the applicant, DOC understands that the question being asked is;

“If culvert remediation cannot be credited as compensation because it is already legally required, what additional quantum of offset/compensation should the applicant provide to replace the benefit currently attributed to that remediation?”

Generating figures with certainty will depend on information that is still to be provided by the applicant i.e. information regarding culvert ownership and clarification of some current figures. Specifically:

‘Knowns’ and assumptions

- At Waipokapū, the proposal includes removal of three farm ponds, removal/remediation of perched or incorrectly placed culverts (**> 1 culvert**), and reconnection/re-formation of about 150 m of stream channel. Those works collectively are said to **open >600 m of stream to fish**.
- At Meremere, the relevant extent-related action is remediation of the significant perched culvert (**1 culvert**), claimed to **open >1.9 km of existing stream to fish**.
- Therefore, Waipokapū + Meremere = ~2,500 m of existing stream made re-accessible to fish (not replacement of lost extent). However, Table 38 of the EclA notes: *“4,000 m of extent of watercourse connected for migratory climbing fish access that is currently denied...”*

‘Unknowns’ which require further information from the applicant

- How much stream length/area would be made re-accessible to fish (Stream)

- What multiplier is used to reflect that partial value is being offered for total extent (M)

Once those figures are clarified, DOC suggests that additional quantum required to reasonably replace non-additional compensation benefit be derived from: **Additional quantum (m²) = Stream x M**

In accordance with Minute 8, we now await the applicant's response(s), or further instructions from the Panel.

Emily Bayliss

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