



21 SEP 2026

The Expert Panel – Fast-track Approvals Act application
Environmental Protection Authority
Waterloo Quay
Wellington

To the Expert Panel

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the substantive application for the Barrytown Minerals Project – Southern Block FTAA-2605-1238, under section 53(2)(j) of the Fast-track Approvals Act. My comments focus on whether the application is likely to deliver economic benefits, based on the information provided by the applicant.

Barrytown Minerals Project – Southern Block, FTAA-2605-1238

The application is for a 408-hectare mineral-sands mine at Barrytown Flats on the West Coast. The Southern Block would be mined progressively for ilmenite and garnet with zircon and gold as by-products, processing approximately 2 million tonnes annually to produce around 400,000 tonnes of heavy mineral concentrate for export. Excluding preparation and rehabilitation, it would extend the consented mine's operations by approximately 14 years as part of the wider project's assessed 22-year operating life.

The applicant's economic evidence focuses on operational benefits. Over the additional 14 years, the Southern Block is estimated to generate annually approximately \$107 million in GDP, \$200.2 million in exports, \$66.9 million in local spending and \$39.8 million in royalties and taxes. It would support 135 direct mining FTEs, earning approximately \$13 million in annual wages and a further 189 local jobs. Most estimates apply the Southern Block's expected 87 per cent share of total mining volumes to the updated whole-project assessment. Employment and wages were not prorated because the applicant advised that the Southern Block would require the same workforce as the wider project.

Benefits would be concentrated in the Grey District and wider West Coast through continued employment, wages, local spending and supplier activity. Export earnings and Crown revenue would provide wider national benefits. On balance, the proposal appears likely to deliver significant regional economic benefits under section 22(2)(a)(iv) with further national benefits through exports and Crown revenue, although these national effects are less comprehensively assessed.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for Economic Growth