File Ref: 26–BRF–02335 / FTAA-2607-1269

3 November 2026

Jared Johnston
Whiterock Lime Limited (the applicant)
s9(2)(a)

c/- Steph Brown
WSP New Zealand Limited (the agent)
s9(2)(a)

Dear Jared and Steph

Section 28 – Notice of Decisions on the referral application for the Whiterock Quarry and Managed Fill project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

This notice of decisions is for a referral application received from Whiterock Lime Limited for referral of the Whiterock Quarry and Managed Fill Project (project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

Project details
The project description is to construct, establish and operate a Class 3 Managed Fill facility using overburden quarrying and limestone extraction from the existing quarry operation to shape the pit floor and sides over a development area of approximately 5.3 hectares.

The project area is approximately 28.93 hectares, located across four properties at 150, 154, 174 and 176 Quarry Road, Loburn, Canterbury Region.

The project involves ancillary activities and infrastructure, including:

a. works in waterways and margins including construction and installation of an access bridge structure
b. the continued operation of the existing limestone quarry activities and processing facility for approximately 10 years shaping the floor and walls of the managed fill as part of ongoing operations
c. accepting selected inert construction and demolition materials, specific inert materials (asbestos and cured asphalt impacted by coal tar binders), contaminated soil material and cleanfill
d. an expected managed fill operational life of 20 years, with a capacity of 800,000 tonnes subject to demand and capacity
e. construction earthworks, vegetation clearance, excavation and stockpiling associated with the quarrying/managed fill including within waterway and wetland margins
f. water takes and use, diversion and discharges including stormwater, groundwater, sediment.

The project will require the proposed approvals:

a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991

Statutory framework for referral applications

The project can only be accepted if the Minister is satisfied the criteria in section 22 is met, which includes being satisfied the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits and referring the project to the fast-track approvals process would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes and is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

Under section 21(3) of the Act, the Minister must decline a referral application if:

a. the Minister is satisfied that the project does not meet the criteria in section 22
b. the Minister is satisfied that the project involves an ineligible activity
c. the Minister considers they do not have adequate information to inform the decision.

Additionally, the Minister has the discretion to decline a referral application for any other reason, whether or not the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the Act.

Decision on referral application

The Minister has decided to decline the referral application for the project under sections 21(3), 21(4) and 21(5)(b) of the Act.

The Minister is not satisfied that the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the Act and considers it would be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.

Under section 28 of the Act, the Secretary for the Environment must also give written notice of decisions made by the Minister to the parties specified in Appendix 1 of this letter. As required by section 28(1)(b) of the Act, this notice of decisions will be published on the Fast-track website.

If you have any queries about this notice of decisions, please email referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Stephanie McNicholl.

For any other queries, email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 225 537).

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix 1: Section 28 – Notice of Minister's decisions on referral application

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Section 28(1)(a)(i) – the applicant	Whiterock Lime Limited

Section 28(1)(a)(ii) – anyone invited to comment on the application	
Relevant local authorities	Canterbury Regional Council Waimakariri District Council
Relevant portfolio Ministers	Minister for the Environment Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Minister for Māori Development
Relevant administering agencies	N/A
Māori groups under section 17(d)	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga Whitiora Centre Limited
Any other persons under section 17(5)	Minister for Economic Growth Minister for Regional Development Chief Executive of Land Information New Zealand Chief Executive of Christchurch City Council Chief Executive of Hurunui District Council