
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Minute following the Convener Conference on 25th July 2025

Drury Quarry Expansion - Expert Panel appointment and
decision time-frame

Drury Quarry Expansion [FTAA-2503-1037]

29 July 2025

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to confirm the Expert Panel (**Drury Quarry Expert Panel**) appointments, including the timing of those appointments, and the decision timeframe.

[2] During the conference on 25th July 2025, I was advised by Auckland Council (**the Council**) and the Applicant that ongoing engagement between the parties is occurring and will continue to occur. I was advised that the Council have a number of matters that it is seeking further information about and it was clear that the Applicant and the Council would confer over these. We also had a discussion about the ability of the Panel to request further information under section 67 FTAA.

[3] I was advised by the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) that there was a lack of clarity about the amended Ecological Management Plan and the issue of lizard salvages. Again, I was advised that the Applicant and the DOC would confer over these matters.

[4] During the conference timing was discussed and the participants were comfortable that the Drury Quarry Expert Panel commencement date for the purposes of section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2025 (**the Act**) would be **13th August 2025**. The participants were also comfortable with the Applicant's

suggestion that the default period of 30 working days be extended by 15 working days making the decision due on **27th November 2025**. The decision due date is subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for receiving comments under section 53 of the Act being 24 September 2025.

[5] In terms of the membership of the Drury Quarry Expert Panel I informed the participants of who I proposed to appoint to the Panel and no issues arose. It was clear to me that a three-member panel should suffice.

[6] As indicated at the conference I engage the following members to the Drury Quarry Expert Panel:

- (a) Catherine Somerville-Frost as Chair;
- (b) Peter Kensington;
- (c) Dr Graham Ussher.

[7] The date the Drury Quarry Expert Panel will begin work will be the week starting 28th July 2025. As noted above, for the purposes of section 53 the commencement date for the Drury Quarry Expert Panel will be **13th August 2025**.

[8] With regard to the timing of the Drury Quarry Expert Panel's decision the following is relevant to my consideration:

- (a) I note that Council and the Applicant have fully engaged and that further collaborative discussions are proposed.
- (b) I note that DOC and the Applicant will confer with regards to the matters raised at the conference.
- (c) Although the application contains significant experts reports and evidence it is not considered to be legally, evidentially or factually complex.
- (d) The Drury Quarry Expert Panel has the power to request further information and reports under section 67 of the Act and the power

to appoint special and/or technical advisors under clause 10 of Schedule 3 of the Act.

- (e) Once the time for the decision is set under section 79 of the Act, I am not able to extend that time.
- (f) The Applicant considers that the default time of 30 working days after the date for receiving comments should be extended to 45 working days. No participants took issue with this timeframe.

[9] After carefully considering all these matters, I propose to extend the timeframe for the Drury Quarry Expansion - Sutton Block Expert Panel to issue the decision documents under section 79 to 45 working days. This means the decision documents will be due on **27th November 2025** subject to processing of the application being suspended for any of the reasons outlined in section 60 of the Act, and to the date specified for receiving comments under section 53 of the Act being 24 September 2025.

[10] In terms of next steps, the participants will be contacted by the Drury Quarry Expert Panel after their appointment date.

[11] I thank the participants for their engagement and assistance at the Conference, it is greatly appreciated.



Helen Atkins
Associate panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024