



## Memo

To:	Jade Wikaira; Wikaira Consulting Ltd	Project:	2529
From:	Tony Payne; Blueprint Ecology Ltd	Date:	3 March 2026
Subject:	Belmont Quarry Land Exchange: Applicants response to The Friends of Belmont Regional Park; lizards		

Winstones Aggregates Limited is in a process with the Department of Conservation (the Department) to swap an area of Belmont Regional Park in exchange for four areas known as Northern Gully, Southern Gully, Firth Block and Dry Creek (the exchange sites).

The Friends of Belmont Regional Park has provided feedback during processing to an application for the land exchange. Their sole comment regarding lizards is as follows:

*30. The Lizard assessment (Appendix B2, Table 3) summarises the values of lizard habitat. Including the QEII areas gives a total DoC-Get value of 33.19, compared with 18.83 in the POBDA. If the QEII areas, being already conserved, are excluded from the calculation, the DoC-Get value drops to 19.27, only marginally greater than that of the regional park lands. We note that herpetofauna field observations were restricted to the POBDA and extrapolated to the DoC-Get areas based broadly on forest types. Again, we conclude that there would be little change to the lizard habitat values.*

Our assessment covered all areas of the land exchange and surrounding areas, including the OBDA, Northern Gully, Southern Gully, Firth Block and Dry Creek. The assessment included a desktop analysis and on-site habitat assessments over multiple site visits. A further extensive survey program was undertaken within the OBDA at the request of the Department. The Department agreed with Blueprint Ecology Ltd that due to the high survey effort allocated in the OBDA, the close proximity of the exchange sites and OBDA and overall similarity in vegetation cover/ habitat, the results from the OBDA would be analogous across the exchange sites. The results of our assessment have been corroborated by previous surveys in the area.

We understand that the extent of lizard habitat in the QEII covenant areas are to be considered in the application.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Payne  
Principal Ecologist<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> This report has been prepared by Blueprint Ecology Limited on the instructions of our Client in accordance with the agreed scope of work. It is intended to support the Client's application for a land exchange and may be relied upon by the Department of Conservation and relevant administering agencies for the purposes of assessing the application. While Blueprint Ecology Limited has exercised due care in preparing this report, it does not accept liability for any use of the report beyond its intended purpose. Where information has been supplied by the Client or obtained from external sources, it has been assumed to be accurate unless otherwise stated.