

File Ref: 26-BRF-01382 / FTAA-2602-1168

2 June 2026

[REDACTED]
Graymont (NZ) Limited (the applicant)

Email: [REDACTED]

c/- [REDACTED]
Enspire Consulting Ltd

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Section 28 – Notice of Decisions on the referral application for the Ōparure Quarry South-Western Pit project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

This notice of decisions is for an application received from Graymont (NZ) Limited for referral of the Ōparure Quarry South-Western Pit project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

Project Details

The project is to expand an existing limestone quarrying operation, including the development, operation and progressive rehabilitation of the new south-western pit at the existing Ōparure Quarry located at 806 Ōparure Road, Te Kūiti.

The project involves:

- a. the establishment of a new 1.3 kilometre (km) haul road to the project area
- b. upon access being completed, the commencement of resource extraction in stages
- c. infill with the overburden sourced from the following stage
- d. landscape restoration to a natural form and reinstatement to productive farmland.

The project will require the proposed approvals under specified Acts:

- a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

Statutory framework for referral applications

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

The project can only be accepted if the Minister is satisfied the criteria in section 22 are 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-

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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:

- the Minister is satisfied that the project does not meet the criteria in section 22
- the Minister is satisfied that the project involves an ineligible activity
- 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, even if the project meets the criteria outlined in section 22 of the Act.

Decision on referral application

The Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) has decided to **accept** the referral application for the whole project as he is satisfied it meets the criteria in section 22 (s 21(1)(c)) and to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process under section 26(2)(a).

Reasons for accepting referral application

The Minister is satisfied the project:

- (a) is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits; and
- (b) referring the project to the fast-track approvals process –
 - (i) would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and
 - (ii) is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

Specifically, the Minister is satisfied the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the Act as:

- (a) the project for a large-scale urban development is a **development project** that would have **significant regional benefits** in the Waikato region [s22(1)(a)] because it:
 - i. will deliver significant economic benefits [s22(2)(a)(ix)] as:
 - the limestone and lime products sourced from the Ōparure Quarry underpin key export sectors such as agriculture, dairy processing, pulp and paper manufacturing, and gold mining, and support major domestic manufacturers as well as essential infrastructure services.
 - combined with the quarry's upstream economic supply chains, these downstream economic linkages are extensive and significant at the national level.
 - ii. will support primary industries, including aquaculture [s22(2)(a)(v)] as it:
 - will enable the continued and long-term supply of agricultural lime products to pastoral farms and horticultural activities throughout the Central North Island.
 - iii. will support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum [s22(2)(a)(vi)] as it:
 - enables the use and development of natural limestone resources.

- (b) 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 [s22(1)(b)(i)] because:
- i. the timeframes under the Act are significantly shorter than under the RMA
 - ii. the Act precludes public and limited notification
 - iii. appeals under the Act are only to the High Court rather than the Environment Court and are limited to points of law.
- (c) referring the project to the fast-track approvals process is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process [s22(1)(b)(ii)] because the project is neither novel in the New Zealand context nor beyond the scope of what a panel would typically assess under the RMA.

The Minister is satisfied there is no reason they must decline the project under section 21(3) of the Act. The Minister is also satisfied there is no reason to decline the project under section 21(4) or (5) of the Act.

Specified matters for accepted referral application

1. Graymont (NZ) Limited, who lodged the referral application, as the person who is authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project under section 27(2) of the Act.
2. In relation to a substantive application for the project:
 - a. a deadline for lodging the application applies under section 27(3)(b)(i) – the application must be lodged by two years from the date of issue of this letter.

Other matters

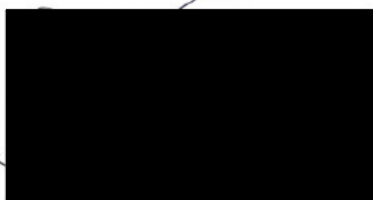
1. Under section 16(2)(c) of the Act, the Minister directs any panel that considers a substantive application for the project to comply with the following:
 - a. have particular regard to Te Ture Whaimana;
 - b. give notice to the Waikato River Authority of the application (which may be fulfilled by an invitation to comment under section 53 of the Act);
 - c. consider the provisions for appointing hearing commissioners from the register maintained by the Waikato River Authority as they may be applied to appointing a panel under the fast-track process;
 - d. have regard to the Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan, including 'Part 23.0: Mining and Quarrying, Oil, Gas, and Minerals'; and
 - e. consider the detailed provisions of the Te Nehenehenui Joint Management Agreement, as they may be applied to the fast-track process.

Under section 28 of the Act, the Ministry for the Environment must also give written notice of decisions made by the Minister on an accepted referral application to the parties specified in Appendix 1 of this letter.

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

If you have any queries about the substantive process, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 225 537).

Yours sincerely



Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix 1: Section 28 – Notice of Minister’s decision on accepted referral application

Section 28(1)(a) – The applicant	Graymont (NZ) Limited
Section 28(1)(ii) – Anyone invited to comment on the application	
<i>Relevant local authorities</i>	Waitomo District Council Waikato Regional Council
<i>Ministers</i>	Minister for the Environment Minister for Resources Minister for Economic Growth Minister for Regional Development
<i>The Māori groups under s17(d)</i>	Te Nehenehenui Waikato River Authority Pakeho A18 Trust Oparure Marae Raukawa Settlement Trust Pakeho A16 owners Pakeho A19B owners
Section 28(2) – Other parties for an accepted referral application	
<i>The Panel Convener</i>	Including all the information received by the Minister as required by section 28(4).
<i>Any iwi authorities or Treaty settlement entities (other than those that must be notified as identified above) that the Minister considers have an interest in the matter</i>	No additional iwi authorities or Treaty settlement entities have been identified beyond those listed above.
<i>Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</i>	Including all the information received by the Minister as required by section 28(4).
<i>Relevant administering agencies</i>	As identified above.