

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by Stevenson Aggregates Limited under
section 42 of the FTAA for the Drury Quarry Expansion –
Sutton Block.

APPLICATION NO. FTAA-2503-1037

**MEMORANDUM FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION
RESPONDING TO MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER**

21 July 2025

Katherine Anton Senior Solicitor DOC Te Papa Atawhai PO Box 10420 Wellington 6140 [Redacted] [Redacted]	Amelia Wilkinson Permissions Advisor DOC Te Papa Atawhai PO Box 10420 Wellington 6140 [Redacted] [Redacted]
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Introduction

1. This memorandum has been prepared on behalf of the Director-General of Conservation (**D-G**). It responds to Minute 1 of the Panel Convener dated 10 July 2025 in respect of the Drury Quarry Expansion – Sutton Bock application [FTAA-2503-1037] (the “Minute”).
2. The Minute refers to an upcoming conference, to gather participant views, that will inform decisions of the Convener regarding:
 - a) Appointment of panel members.
 - b) The timing of the panel decision.
3. This memorandum addresses the matters identified in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Minute, as relevant to the two decisions required of the Panel Convener set out at paragraph 2 of the Minute.
4. The memorandum focuses on the approval sought under section 42(4)(h), being a wildlife approval as defined in Clause 1 of Schedule 7 of the FTAA and raises one matter relating to the resource consent.

Complexity

5. The D-G has reviewed the matters in Schedule 1 of the Minute and considers that the wildlife approval component of this project is of relatively low complexity.
6. The D-G identified that the application does not sufficiently identify the receiving site for salvaged lizards, or the methods of release site management that would support all species of lizards identified. In addition, inconsistent information is provided about the timing of lizard salvages. The D-G has been provided with additional information by the applicant that addresses these matters through an amended Ecological Management Plan E3.9. The Panel will also need to obtain this information to inform decisions about the wildlife authorisation and appropriate conditions.
7. The D-G is not in a position to advise the Convener about the complexity of the resource consent component of the project but does raise one matter relating to public conservation land included in the applicant’s offsetting proposal. As part of ecological offsetting proposed there is a draft condition

(B11) which obliges the applicant to establish and maintain 5ha of offset planting on Hingaia Island “upon receipt of Department of Conservation landowner approval”. There is some complexity in obtaining that approval which the applicant is aware of. This relates to the D-G’s management of the reserve in collaboration with mana whenua groups. This issue can be worked on further but there no certainty that land manager approval will be forthcoming in the time available for this project. The application referred to additional contingency planting and enhancement being available at the Tuakau site owned by SAL should it be required. Including this contingency planting may require amendment to conditions and the Ecological Management Plan.

Appointment of panel members

8. In terms of the D-G’s interests, key matters to be considered in this application are effects on absolutely protected wildlife, and on conservation matters dealt with as part of the proposed resource consents (ecology and freshwater habitat).
9. The D-G considers it is appropriate that the Panel Convener appoints a panel that contains relevant ecological expertise, albeit recognising that the Panel would be guided by reports and advice from the D-G and others.
10. An understanding of effects on wildlife and biodiversity values that would be required to assess resource consent issues associated with this project is likely to be sufficient to enable appropriate decision making on the wildlife approval.
11. The D-G considers that, in terms of the D-G’s interests, appointing more than the default number of panel members is not required. The D-G recognises that matters outside of the D-G’s interests may warrant appointment of additional members.

Issue (b) – Timing of panel decision

12. The D-G agrees that the relevant matters for setting an appropriate time frame for consideration of this project are the scale, nature, and complexity of the approvals sought, and any other matter raised by the application.
13. The D-G considers that the default time frame would be sufficient for the wildlife approval component of this project, as it is of low legal, evidential, and

factual complexity. It is expected that specific advice around timeframes needed to decide on the resource consent elements of the project to be provided by other attendees of the conference.

14. The D-G recommends that the timeframe accommodate any procedural steps that may be necessary, such as additional information requests by the Panel under section 67 of the FTAA.
15. The D-G considers that exactly what procedural steps will be necessary and appropriate will need to be determined by the Panel once the key issues have crystalised but notes that it is unlikely a hearing would be required on the wildlife approval component of this project.

Conclusion

16. The D-G's representatives will be happy to elaborate further on any of the above points at the conference set for 25 July 2025 at 10am.
17. The D-G's representatives have engaged directly with the applicant to resolve outstanding issues identified during the completeness assessment. The D-G confirms ongoing willingness to engage with the applicant and Panel as necessary to advance the progress of the application.
18. The D-G's representatives will attend the conference.

Katherine Anton
Counsel for the Director-General of Conservation