Hon Nicola Willis

Minister of Finance
Minister for Economic Growth
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5 NOV 2026

The Expert Panel – Fast-track Approvals Act application
Environmental Protection Authority
Waterloo Quay
Wellington

REQ-0040663

To the Expert Panel

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the substantive application of Oparure Quarry South-Western Pit (FTAA-2606-1251) under section 53(2)(j) of the Fast-track Approvals Act. My comments focus on whether the application is likely to deliver economic benefits, based on the information provided by the applicant.

Oparure Quarry South-Western Pit, FTAA-2606-1251

The application is for a new opencast pit at the existing Oparure Quarry, north of Te Kūiti in Waikato. The project would enable the quarry to maintain its current limestone production as the existing pit approaches the end of its economic life. The proposal is intended to progressively rehabilitate the new pit while using the site's existing processing, storage and transport infrastructure. The quarry is currently the largest limestone quarry in New Zealand and is owned by Graymont Limited New Zealand, a subsidiary of the global calcium-based solutions company, Graymont Limited.

According to the economic assessment provided by the applicant, the quarry, two associated Waikato kiln sites, and a proportionate share of Graymont New Zealand's regional office are estimated to have contributed $42.7 million to $46.5 million to GDP annually and sustained 262 FTE jobs. This includes 43 direct FTEs and $15 million in direct GDP associated with the quarry.

As the proposal is focused on maintaining Graymont's long-term operations, this proposal would enable existing activity to continue. It would also support the continued domestic supply of limestone and lime products used in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, roading and water treatment. The associated supply-chain benefits are expected to extend across much of the North Island and may help reduce reliance on imported products.

On balance, the proposal appears likely to support significant existing regional and national economic benefits under section 22(2)(a)(iv) of the Act by maintaining established economic activity and supporting the resilience of important domestic supply chains. This assessment depends on the applicant's expectation that the quarry could not remain economically viable without access to the new pit.

Yours sincerely

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