

In the matter of an application for approvals under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

By **Tāiko Critical Minerals**

Applicant

Statement of evidence of Jon Farren in relation to Noise

26 March 2026

Applicant's solicitor:

Alex Booker

Anderson Lloyd

Floor 2, The Regent Building, 33 Cathedral Square, Christchurch 8011

PO Box 13831, Christchurch 8141

DX Box WX10009 Christchurch

■■■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■

**anderson
lloyd.**

Introduction

- 1 My name is Jon Farren.
- 2 My role in relation to the application by Tāiko Critical Minerals Limited (**the application**) for approvals relating to the Barrytown Mineral Sands – Southern Block Project (**the Project**) has been to provide expert advice in relation to noise effects.
- 3 I am the technical reviewer and supervisor for all noise monitoring, modelling and analysis. Working with my colleagues, I am responsible for the Assessment of Noise Effects (**Noise Assessment**) which has been provided in support of the application.
- 4 The purpose of this evidence is to:
 - (a) provide my qualifications and experience relevant to the Report;
 - (b) confirm my compliance with the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses, contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023;
 - (c) provide a brief summary of my report and confirm its contents; and
 - (d) comment on the proposed conditions.

Qualifications and experience

- 5 I am the Manager and Principal of Marshall Day Acoustics (MDA) Christchurch office.
- 6 I hold a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Electroacoustics from the University of Salford in the United Kingdom.
- 7 I hold full membership of the Institute of Acoustics (UK), membership of which requires that I remain active in the field of professional acoustics and satisfy the Institute's requirements in relation to level of qualifications and experience.
- 8 I have been employed as an Acoustic Consultant for over 30 years, approximately 25 years of which have been with Marshall Day Acoustics.
- 9 I have considerable experience in the areas of planning with regard to noise, the assessment of noise and vibration, and noise control in relation to both environmental noise and building acoustics.
- 10 Of particular relevance to this proposal, I have assessed noise and vibration effects and performed compliance monitoring at over 35 mining and quarrying sites across New Zealand, where mineral extraction, processing and transportation are the

dominant noise sources. My experience includes several mining operations on the West Coast for various operators.

Expert witness Code of Conduct

11 While this application is not being considered by the Environment Court, I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023 and that I have complied with it when preparing this evidence. Other than when I state I am relying on the advice of another person, this evidence is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express.

Summary of Report

12 To ensure that noise effects are acceptable at residential receivers in the rural zone, I propose that the consented noise limits adopted for Central Resource Block and Wet Concentrator Plant are also adopted for this project. These limits are based on my review of the Grey District Plan (GDP), Te Tai o Poutini Plan (Decisions Version) (TTPP), World Health Organisation guidance, and New Zealand Standards.

13 My proposed limits are:

(a) 07:00 to 22:00 hrs 55 dB $L_{Aeq(15\text{ min})}$

(b) 22:00 to 07:00 hrs 45 dB $L_{Aeq(15\text{ min})}$ and 75 dB L_{AFmax}

14 My modelling shows that noise emissions will be significantly below the proposed 55 dB L_{Aeq} limit at most dwellings for the majority of the time. The margin of compliance is such that the activity will also meet the more restrictive 45 dB L_{Aeq} night-time limit when extraction occurs during the 06:00 to 07:00 hrs period (classified as night-time under the District Plan).

15 Whilst noise levels will comply with the 55 dB L_{Aeq} limit at all times, noise from the activity will be most noticeable during an approximate two-month period when excavation occurs within around 250 metres of eight dwellings in the vicinity of Warren and Cargill Roads, as identified in Table 7 of the Noise Assessment.

16 I have recommended the construction of 3-metre-high noise control bunds to maintain an appropriate level of residential amenity at these dwellings, consistent with relevant published guidance.

17 Overall, noise emissions from the proposed activity can be managed or mitigated to comply with the applicable noise levels for the protection of residential amenity and are broadly consistent with the relevant permitted activity standards of the GDP

and TTPP. Noise from the proposal will result in acceptable noise effects and there will be no unreasonable emission of noise.

Proposed conditions

- 18 I have reviewed the proposed conditions at Appendix P as they relate to my area of expertise. I consider these are appropriate to ensure noise effects will be consistent with the assumptions in my assessment.

Jon Farren

26 March 2026