



**WAIKATO REGIONAL AND WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL'S MEMO IN RESPONSE
TO MINUTE 2 OF THE EXPERT PANEL**

**Oparure Quarry South-Western Pit [FTAA-2606-1251]
8 October 2026**

- [1] This memo is provided in response to the Expert Panels Minute 2 dated 6 October 2026.
- [2] The Waikato Regional Council (WRC) confirms that it will address the status of Plan Change 1 as it relates to the proposal in its section 53 comments.
- [3] As per WRC's response to Minute 1 from the Hearing Convener WRC considers that whilst the application is technically complex and the application documentation lengthy, there remain no technical issues in contention between WRC and the Applicant.
- [4] As per the application documentation the applicant has undertaken an RMA consenting process which consisted of a limited notification process and joint witness caucusing of the Water Quality, Aquatic Ecologist and Cave and Karst experts for WRC and the Applicant and the Terrestrial Ecologist expert for Waitomo District Council (WDC) and the Applicant. This caucusing resulted in a change to the application addressing the issues raised by the experts. This change to the application is included in the application that is before the Expert Panel.
- [5] The Applicant has also since undertaken additional modelling of the Camelot Caving system and included that information within this Fast track application. Relevant experts for WRC will be assessing this matter which will be addressed in the s53 report.
- [6] WRC's technical experts are as follows:

Expert	Relevant Review	Current Role
Dr Paul Williams	Cave and Karst Review	Emeritus Professor University of Auckland
Mark Hamer	Aquatic Ecology Review	Senor Freshwater Ecologist e3 Scientific Ltd
Peter Stacey	Air Discharge Review	Managing Director Air Quality Consulting NZ Limited

Kerry Pearce	Erosion and Sediment Control Review	Bryant Environmental Solutions Ltd
Andrew Rumsby	Water Quality Review	Principal Environmental Chemist EHS Support NZ Ltd
Chris Dawson Sheryl Roa	Planning Review	Principal Planner Bloxam Burnett and Olliver Principal Advisor – Consents Waikato Regional Council

- [7] The Waitomo District Council (WDC) advise that the application does have some factual complexity primarily in relation to the identification and certification of the Camelot Cave Buffer Zone and the technical matters associated with the protection of the Camelot Cave system. The application also has some sensitive tangata whenua issues associated with it.
- [8] However, the application provides a considerable amount of detailed technical information on which to base a decision and the latest version of the draft WDC conditions adequately address those matters which come under the WDC jurisdiction. There has been extensive technical discussions between the applicants experts and the WDC technical experts over 2022 to 2025 and there are no remaining technical issues in contention between WDC and the applicant.
- [9] WDC's technical experts are as follows:

Expert	Relevant Review	Current Role
Peter Runcie	Acoustic Review	Practice Manager Acoustics and Vibration, SLR Consulting NZ Ltd
Dave Mansergh	Landscape & Visual Review	Mansergh Graham Landscape Architects
Cameron Inder	Transportation Review	Transportation Engineering Manage Bloxam Burnett and Olliver
Chris Dawson	Planning Review	Principal Planner Bloxam Burnett and Olliver

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.



Diane Palmer
Acting Manager – Regional Consents
Resource Use Directorate



Chris Dawson
Consultant Planner
Waitomo District Council