Matamata Quarry Fast Track referral application

Assessment of relevant National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards

National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land 2022 (NPS-HPL)

- The site does not contain soils that are LUC 1, 2 or 3.
- The project therefore does not involve Highly Productive Land (HPL) and the NPS-HPL is not relevant.

National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPS-IB)

- The project will involve the removal of native vegetation in order to access the aggregate resource. Aquatic and terrestrial values have been mapped multiple times by a number of reputable ecologists over the preceding 10 year period. A comprehensive mitigation and offsetting plan will be provided when the future resource consent application is lodged. This would address planting and other mitigation and offset opportunities, along with lizard salvage, time limitations for vegetation removal so that this occurs outside bird nesting seasons, and weed and pest management plans. The approach would be to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity values.
- The aggregate resource is limited in its location, and its proximity to the existing processing area creates an operational efficiency. The economic assessment identifies the importance of a sustained supply of aggregates for community wellbeing, aggregates being necessary of the construction, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure along with construction and building industries.
- The development of the pit would occur over several decades. This provides an opportunity to progressively undertake mitigation and offsets, including in advance of the works to maintain an overall net gain in biodiversity values. The comprehensive mitigation and offsetting plan would address this sequence of vegetation removal and offsetting/mitigation opportunities.
- Overall, the project will be carried out in a manner that is not contrary to the NPS-IB.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM)

- No wetland reclamations are proposed or necessary.
- Stream diversion and reclamation is necessary to access the aggregate resource. This will involve diverting some streams around the quarry pit, while other tributaries may need to be reclaimed to access the aggregate resource. These areas have been assessed and their values quantified.
- A comprehensive mitigation and offsetting plan would be required for the stream diversion and reclamation activities. This would involve:
    - Fish salvage
    - Recreation of stream morphology with diversions
    - Planting of the riparian margins of existing streams
- Earthworks can be managed in terms of the District Plan and Regional Plan rules and best practice methodologies (consistent with regional council guidelines) so as to minimise the loss of sediment and the potential for erosion and uncontrolled discharge to the stream network.
- The same locational attributes and community wellbeing matters associated with aggregate apply as stated above in the consideration of the NPS-IB.
- The development of the pit, staged in a southwards direction, would occur over several decades. This provides an opportunity to progressively undertake mitigation and offsets, including in advance of the works to maintain an overall net gain in biodiversity values. The comprehensive mitigation and offsetting plan would address this sequence of vegetation removal and offsetting/mitigation opportunities.
- Overall, the project will be carried out in a manner that is not contrary to the NPS-FM

National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES-F)

- Resource consent may be required for earthworks within 100m of a wetland.
- Resource consent will be required for stream diversions and reclamation, along with stream crossings.

National Environmental Standard for Source of Human Drinking Water

- A Quarry Management Plan and Stormwater Management Plan (erosion and sediment control) will manage the discharge of sediment to streams so as to not affect surface water takes.