

CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL AND SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

JOINT HEARING OF RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

BY SOUTHERN SCREENWORKS LTD – AYLESBURY QUARRY

MINUTE #4 OF THE HEARING COMMISSIONER

1. This Minute relates to Southern Screenworks Ltd ('the Applicant') applications for new and changed resource consents for the extension of an existing quarry operation located on land at 50 Bealey Road, Aylesbury, and the joint hearing of these applications. The Canterbury Regional Council (**CRC**) applications are referenced as resource consent numbers CRC244887, CRC244888, and CRC244889. The Selwyn District Council (**SDC**) applications are referenced as RC245428 and RC245429.
2. My decision on the applications was issued on 23 July 2025.

Hearing Closure Timeframe

3. Under s103A(3) of the RMA the hearing of a notified application must be completed no later than 45 working days after the closing date for submissions on the application. Submissions on the SDC applications closed on 15 January, and the CRC applications on 31 January 2025. The hearing was held on 15 April 2025, and was closed on 27 May 2025 following the receipt of further information and closing submissions from the applicant on 14 May. The SDC and CRC hearings therefore closed 89 and 77 working days respectively after the closing of submissions.
4. Section 37(1)(a) provides for a consent authority to extend a timeframe under the act, whether or not the time period has expired. Under s37A(4)(b)(i) a time period in respect of a resource consent may be extended to not exceed twice the maximum time period specified in the act if special circumstances apply, and the authority has taken into account the matters in subsection (1).
5. The reasons for the extended time period to complete the hearing arose due to:
 - Post submission negotiations between the applicant and submitters including a pre-hearing meeting agreed to by the applicant held on 11 March; and
 - Provision of additional information by the applicant following the pre-hearing meeting; and
 - Provision of supplementary evidence, plans, and closing submissions by the applicant following the hearing and subject to an agreed timetable; and
 - Time for myself to review the additional information and closing submissions after receipt.
6. In terms of s37A(1) the additional time was necessary to achieve adequate assessment of the effects of the proposal - in particular it facilitated the changes arising from the pre-hearing meeting. This led to amendments to the application and some submitters withdrawing from the hearing. I consider that this ultimately benefitted all parties as it narrowed the issues of contention, reduced evidence requirements, and simplified the hearing. Additional time following the hearing adjournment for receipt of additional information and closing submissions was in a timeframe agreed to at the hearing by the applicant.
7. Accordingly under s37(1) the time periods for closing the SDC and CRC hearings are extended to 89 and 77 working days respectively.

Decision Timeframe

8. Under s115(2) if a hearing is held, notice of the decision must be given within 15 working days after the end of the hearing. My decision was issued on 23 July 2025, 39 working days following the close of hearing. This was more than twice the maximum period specified in the act.
9. Under s37A(5) a consent authority may extend a time period under section 37 so that the extended period exceeds twice the maximum time period specified in the Act only if—
 - a) *the applicant agrees to the extension; and*
 - b) *the authority has taken into account the matters specified in subsection (1).*
10. The delay in issue of the decision arose due to the scale and complexity of the application, being a joint hearing with sole commissioner functions, and personal workload issues for myself, including managing unforeseen winter staff absences and illnesses, and clashes with statutory timeframes and time commitments for other projects and hearings which I was involved with, that coincided with the receipt of the further information and closing submissions from the applicant.
11. The applicant has advised that they agree to the extension.
12. For the reasons above, under s37(1), the time period for issuing the decision under s115 is extend to 39 working days.
13. If any party wishes to seek further clarification in relation to this Minute or the hearing process please contact Ms Alison Cooper, CRC Consents Coordinator, email: alison.cooper@ecan.govt.nz or phone 0800 765588.

DATED 12 August 2025



Graham Taylor
Hearing Commissioner