



BRF-2131

Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Conservation; Land Information; Defence; Transport; and Climate Change; and Associate Minister for the Environment (urban policy)

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Brackens Ridge Project

Mount Soho Trust Limited have applied to refer the Brackens Ridge Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA.

The purpose of the FTCA is to urgently promote employment to support New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The project is described in Appendix A, and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If I accept the application and the project is referred, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the project, and a panel will be appointed to consider and decide them. The applicant must provide a more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment as part of their RMA applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panel.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish me to take them into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the referral application.

Yours sincerely

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

- A. Description of proposed project

Attachment:

1. Application to refer Brackens Ridge Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Attachment A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Brackens Ridge Project	Mount Soho Trust Limited	The project is to subdivide a 17.9 hectare site and construct a housing development at 175 McDonnell Road, Arrowtown, Otago. The project will create approximately 104 residential lots and up to 208 residential units (up to two units per lot). The application includes the associated infrastructure for the subdivision and development of the lots, including roading, walkways, street tree planting, reserves and constructing connections to three waters services.