



BRF-2389

Mount Soho Trust

c/- Jenny Carter

JCarter Planning

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jenny Carter

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – Notice of Decisions (Section 25)  
– Brackens Ridge Project**

Thank you for Mount Soho Trust's application under section 20 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA) seeking referral of the Brackens Ridge Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the FTCA.

The project is to subdivide a 17.9-hectare site located at 175 McDonnell Road, Arrowtown, Otago, to create approximately 104 lots for residential use, and construct up to 208 residential units (allowing for one primary and one secondary unit lot). Construction of the residential units will be undertaken by third parties. The project includes construction of supporting infrastructure, including roads, accessways, parking areas and three waters services. The project also includes the creation of public and private open space areas and restoration and planting of natural wetlands.

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

I can only refer a project to a panel for consideration under the FTCA if it meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA, which includes me being satisfied the project will help achieve the FTCA's purpose. I can also decline to refer a project for any reason, under s 23(2) of the FTCA. This is not a criticism or endorsement of a project.

I have decided the project does not meet the referral criteria in section 18(2) of the FTCA. The project may not promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources as it does not align with existing district plan policy, infrastructure planning and strategic planning for future urban development within the Queenstown Lakes district.

I also consider it is more appropriate for the project to go through standard consenting processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (section 23(5)(b) of the FTCA).

Accordingly, I have decided to decline your application for referral under sections 23(1) and 23(2) of the FTCA.

The FTCA requires that:

1. I provide a copy of this decision to the persons, entities and groups specified in section 25(1) of the FTCA
2. My decision, the reasons for my decision and the Section 17 Report will be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website in accordance with section 25(3) of the FTCA.

Please contact the Fast-track Consenting Team at the Ministry for the Environment (fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) if you have any questions or wish to discuss this decision.

Yours sincerely

Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

cc 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; Climate Change; and Associate Minister for the Environment (urban policy)

Local authorities:

Otago Regional Council  
Queenstown Lakes District Council

Other parties:

Aurora Energy