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Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, Housing; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Oceans and Fisheries; Local Government; Land Information; Defence; Transport; and Climate Change

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Ariki Tahī (Sugarloaf Wharf) Upgrade

Ariki Tahī Sugarloaf Wharf Limited has applied to refer the Ariki Tahī (Sugarloaf Wharf) Upgrade project to an expert consenting panel (a 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 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 a link to the application documents is in the covering email. As the project includes parts of the Coastal Marine Area, the Minister of Conservation (Hon Kiritapu Allan) and I will jointly decide whether or not to accept the application.

Minister Allan and I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If we accept the application and the project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to apply via the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). A more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment(s) will be required as part of this process. You will have an opportunity to provide comments to the panel established to consider and decide these RMA approvals.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish us to take them into consideration when making our decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

Appendix A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Ariki Tahī (Sugarloaf Wharf) Upgrade	Ariki Tahī Sugarloaf Wharf Limited	<p>The Project is to upgrade the existing wharf facilities at Ariki Tahī (Sugarloaf Wharf) to separate commercial and recreational uses, cater for the projected increase in aquaculture production in the Firth of Thames, and improve resilience to extreme weather and tidal events. The project scope includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a new access channel to allow larger vessels all-tide access to the wharf a reclaimed area of approximately 6,900 square metres, formed by placing the material dredged from the access channel behind a new seawall and rock revetment constructed on the seabed berthing, loading and storage infrastructure providing for up to five commercial vessel berths two separate boat ramps for recreational users, protected by a 25-metre long groyne upgrade of access from Te Kouma Road parking areas and associated infrastructure for recreational and commercial vehicles and boat trailers a kiosk and toilet facilities. <p>The Project will involve activities such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reclaiming and/or draining the foreshore and seabed disturbing the foreshore and seabed, including dredging removing material from the foreshore and seabed depositing material on the foreshore/seabed constructing a seawall, rock revetment, groyne and access ramps on the seabed earthworks on land constructing berthing, loading and storage infrastructure for approximately 5 commercial vessels constructing vehicle access and parking areas constructing infrastructure for three waters services discharging stormwater and contaminants to the CMA occupying the coastal marine area with boat ramps, a groyne, seawall and navigational infrastructure undertaking dredging of the access channel from time to time, on an on-going basis any other activities that are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> associated with the activities described in paragraphs a to l within the scope of the Project as described above.