



MFE BRF-917
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3 December 2021

Chris McLay
Chief Executive
Waikato Regional Council

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Chris McLay

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 project is described in Appendix A and a link to the application documents is in the covering email. As the project is partly within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), the Minister of Conservation (Hon Kiritapu Allan) and I will jointly decide on the application.

Minister Allan and I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and on any other matter you consider relevant to our decision on whether or not to accept the application.

The above information is provided to you in confidence and as part of the statutory process set out in the FTCA. Please do not forward the application or the request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

Specific questions on the application
1. Are there any reasons that you consider it more appropriate for the project, or part of the project, to proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the FTCA?
2. What reports and assessments would normally be required by the council for a project of this nature in this area?
3. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your region?

4. Are you aware of any parties with an interest in the project site which is greater than the general public?

If we decide to accept the application and the project is referred to a panel, the council will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine the Resource Management Act 1991 approvals needed for the project. The applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessments at this stage and the council will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel. The Ministry for the Environment has prepared guidance on local authority involvement with fast-track consenting projects which you can access on the Ministry for the Environment website.

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

If you wish to discuss this application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

cc: Amy Robinson, RMA Consents Manager s 9(2)(a)

Enclosures:

A. Response template for written comments

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a new access channel to allow larger vessels all-tide access to the wharf b. 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 c. berthing, loading and storage infrastructure providing for up to five commercial vessel berths d. two separate boat ramps for recreational users, protected by a 25-metre long groyne e. upgrade of access from Te Kouma Road f. parking areas and associated infrastructure for recreational and commercial vehicles and boat trailers g. a kiosk and toilet facilities. <p>The Project will involve activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. reclaiming and/or draining the foreshore and seabed b. disturbing the foreshore and seabed, including dredging c. removing material from the foreshore and seabed d. depositing material on the foreshore/seabed e. constructing a seawall, rock revetment, groyne and access ramps on the seabed f. earthworks on land g. constructing berthing, loading and storage infrastructure for approximately 5 commercial vessels h. constructing vehicle access and parking areas i. constructing infrastructure for three waters services j. discharging stormwater and contaminants to the CMA k. occupying the coastal marine area with boat ramps, a groyne, seawall and navigational infrastructure l. undertaking dredging of the access channel from time to time, on an on-going basis m. any other activities that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. associated with the activities described in paragraphs a to l ii. within the scope of the Project as described above.