Fast-track Consenting: Programme Report 2020/2023

under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

Data as at 6 September 2023
COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA)

The FTCA was enacted on the 8 July 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the associated New Zealand wide lockdowns in 2020.

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 the certainty of ongoing investment across New Zealand, while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The fast-track consenting process was aimed at accelerating investment in projects, to deliver faster economic recovery and more jobs, and address New Zealand’s infrastructure deficit.

The COVID-19 Response (Management Measures) Legislation Act 2021 extended the repeal date of the FTCA to 8 July 2023.
Referral Application numbers

168 projects were lodged with the Ministry for the Environment for referral to progress to an Expert Consenting Panel (Panel) in the three years of the programme.

- 108 projects were referred by the Minister for the Environment to Panel (or referred jointly with the Minister of Conservation if the project was in the Coastal Marine Area)
- 44 projects were declined
- 16 projects were withdrawn
The purpose of the FTCA was to accelerate New Zealand’s recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

The 108 referred applications came from all around New Zealand.

Applicants advise that using the fast-track process saved an average of 18 months per project.
Part of the purpose of the FTCA was to urgently **promote employment** to support New Zealand’s recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

In the 3 years of the programme, projects referred to a consenting panel under the fast-track process have the potential to create approximately **55,303** direct full-time equivalent jobs (FTE).

*this number is from the 108 referred projects, less the 5 projects that have already had their consent applications declined by a Panel*
Purpose: to support certainty of investment

Another purpose of the FTCA was to support the **certainty of ongoing investment** across New Zealand, while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Projects referred to a consenting panel have the potential to increase the housing supply in high-growth areas across the country by up to 18,674* residential units, with a range of densities and typologies.

*this number is from the 108 referred projects, less the 5 projects that have already had their consent applications declined by a Panel
Referred Application data

Referred projects by sector

- Residential development x 30
- Infrastructure x 12
- Mixed-use development x 21
- Industry x 6
- Retirement village x 12
- Commercial development x 10
- Green energy infrastructure x 15
- Public service x 2

Referred project status with Panels

- In progress x 14
- Awaiting lodgement x 50
- Consented x 37
- Declined x 5
- Unlikely to proceed x 2
Listed application numbers

17 projects were listed in Schedule 2 of the FTCA and could be applied for consents directly. Some projects applied in stages.

12 listed projects and/or stages have used the fast-track process.