



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

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.

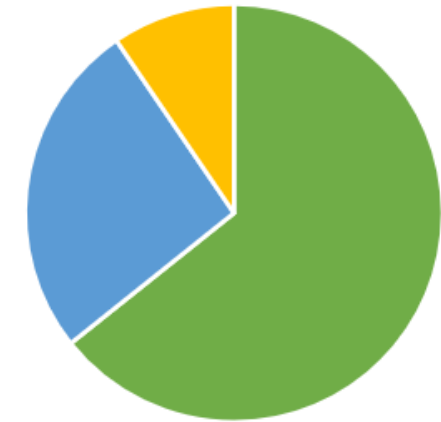
The COVID-19 Response (Management Measures) Legislation Act 2021 extended the repeal date of the FTCA to 8 July 2023.

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.

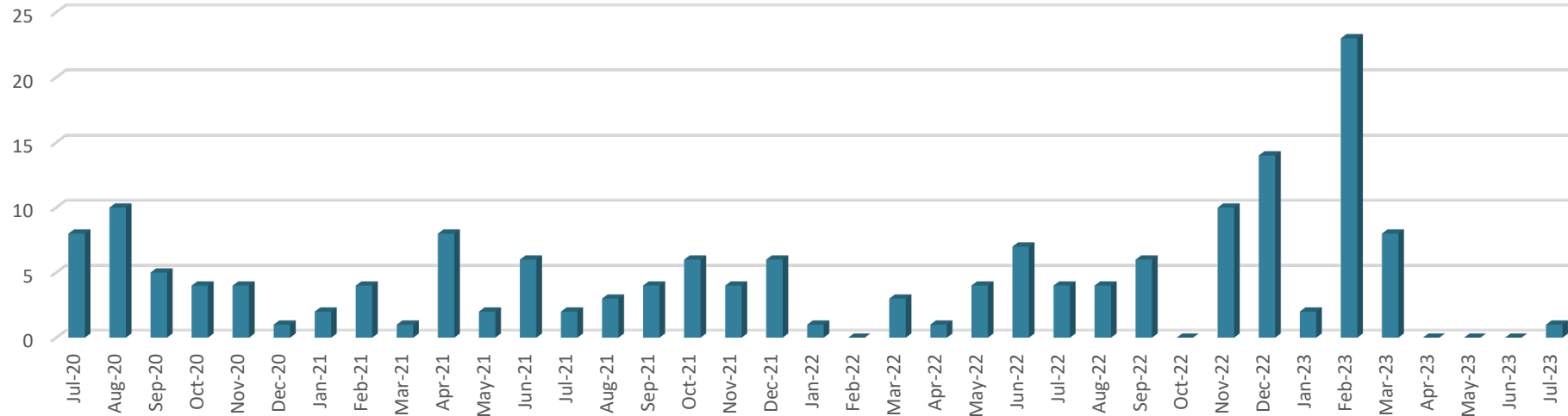
- 108 projects were referred by the Minister for the Environment to Panel (or referred jointly with the Minister of Conservation if the project was in the Coastal Marine Area)
- 44 projects were declined
- 16 projects were withdrawn

Referral decisions



■ Referred x 108 ■ Declined x 44 ■ Withdrawn x 16

Referral applications received by month

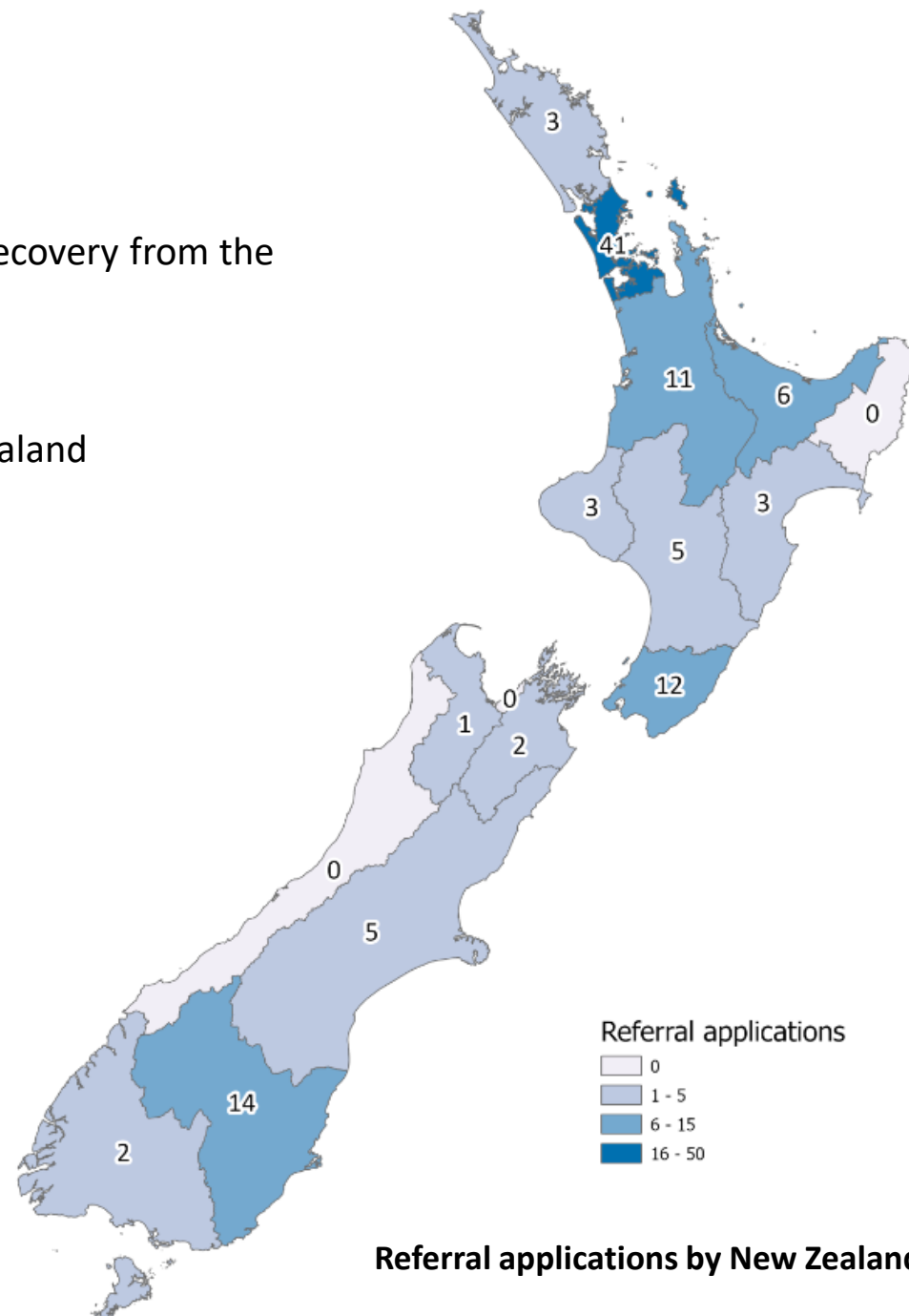


Purpose of the FTCA

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



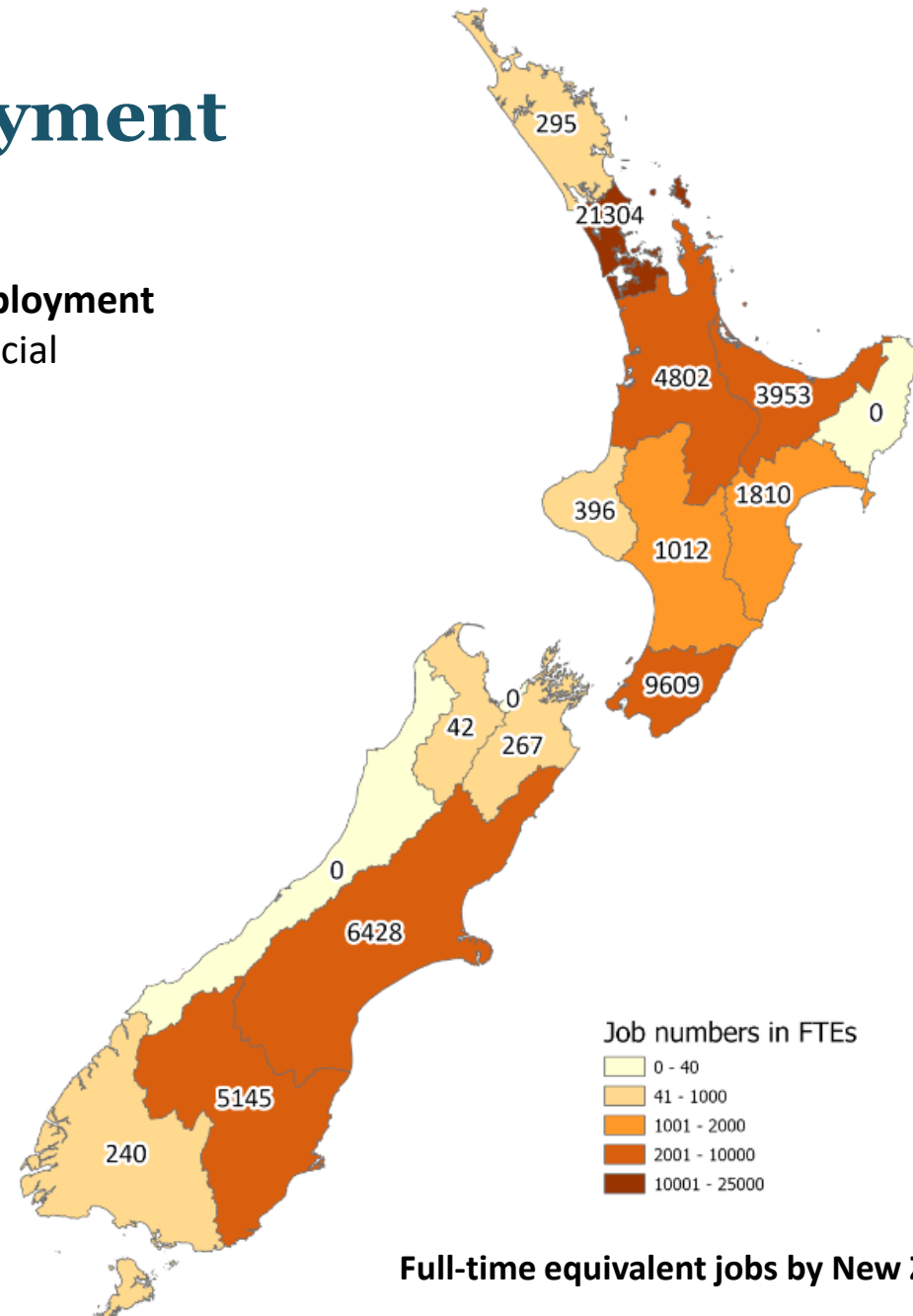
Referral applications by New Zealand region

Purpose: to promote employment

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



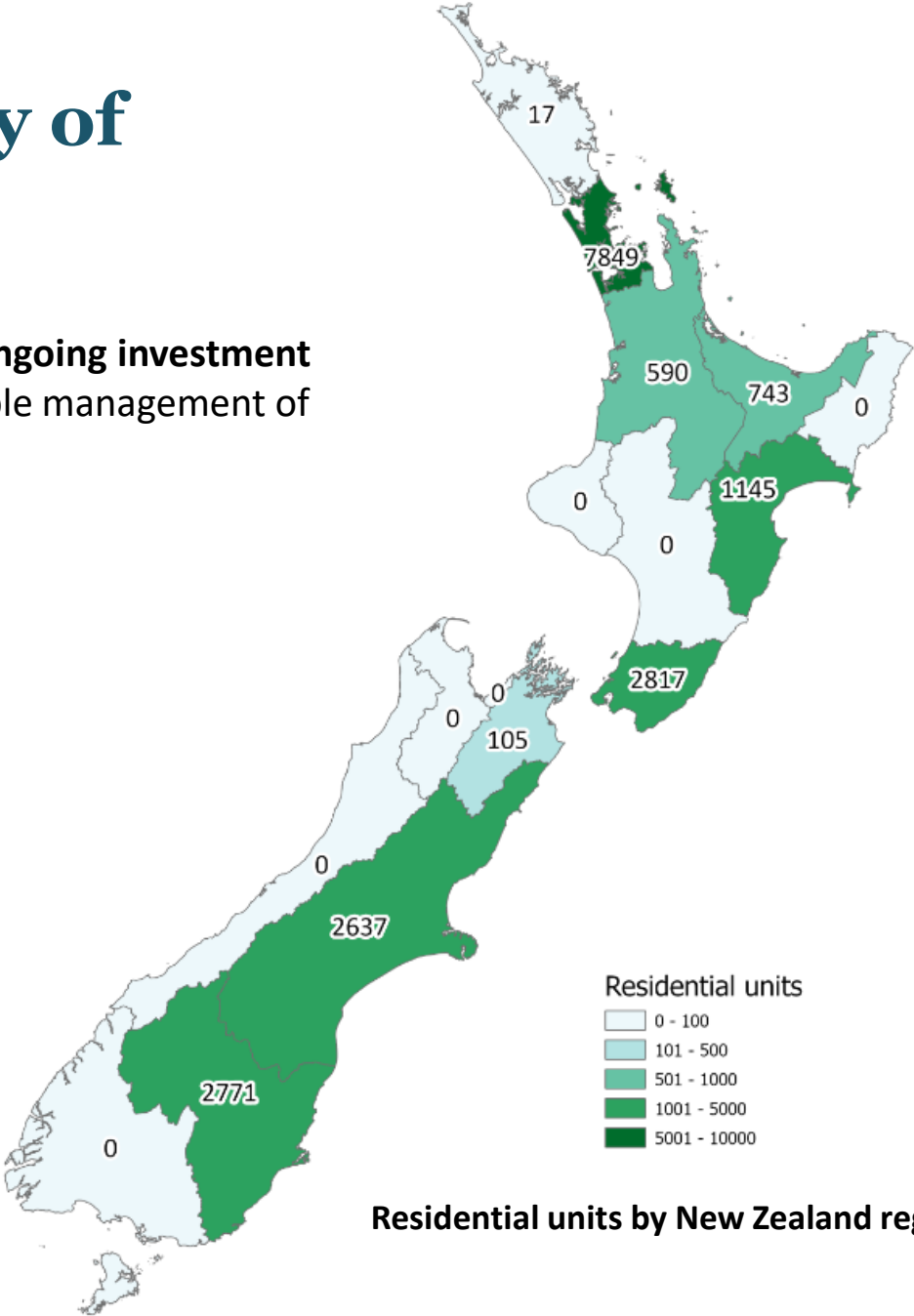
Full-time equivalent jobs by New Zealand region

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

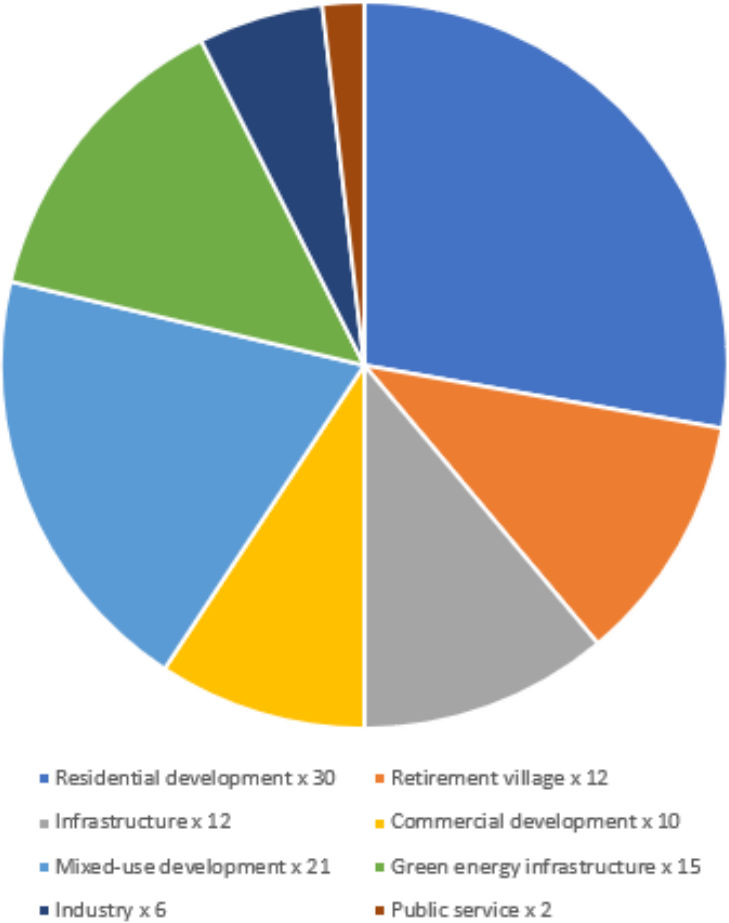
*this number is from the 108 referred projects, less the 5 projects that have already had their consent applications declined by a Panel



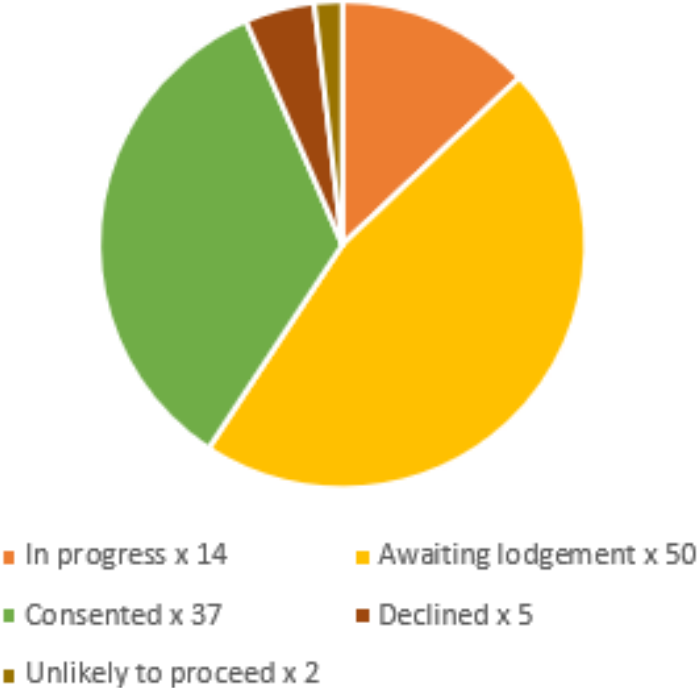
Residential units by New Zealand region

Referred Application data

Referred projects by sector



Referred project status with Panels

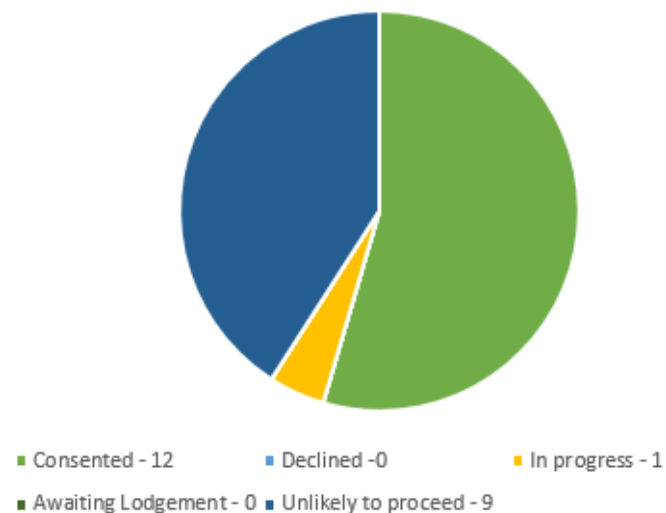


Listed application numbers

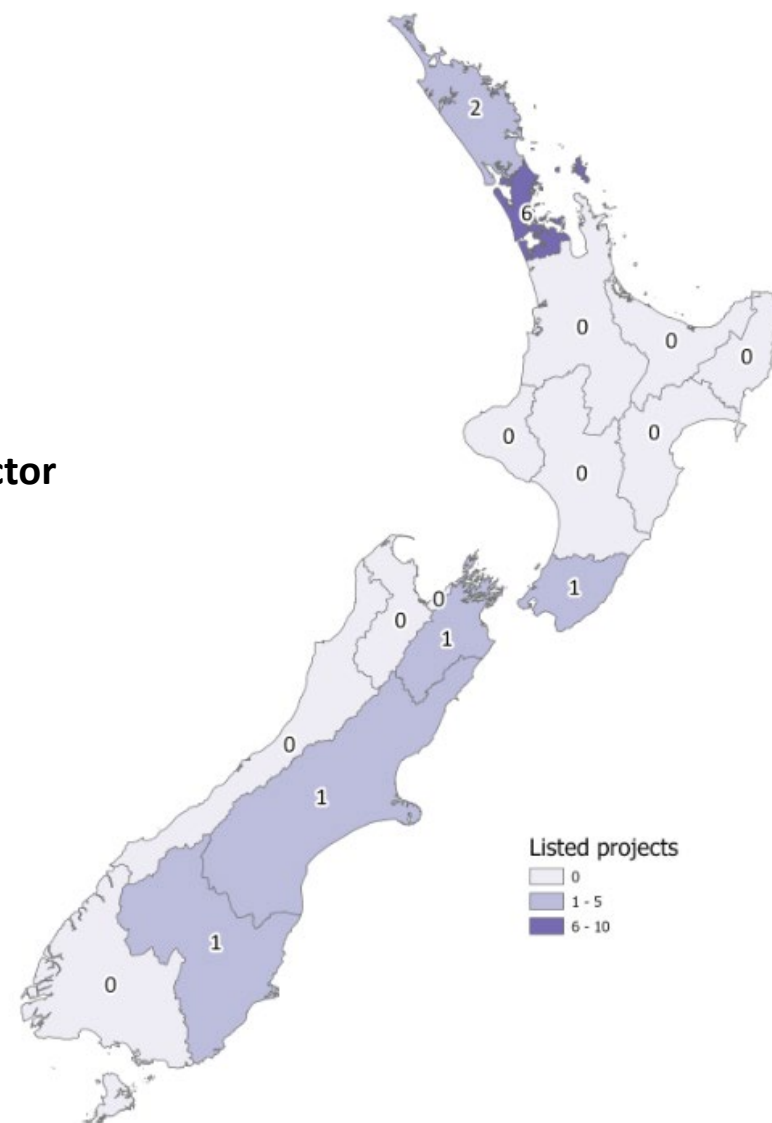
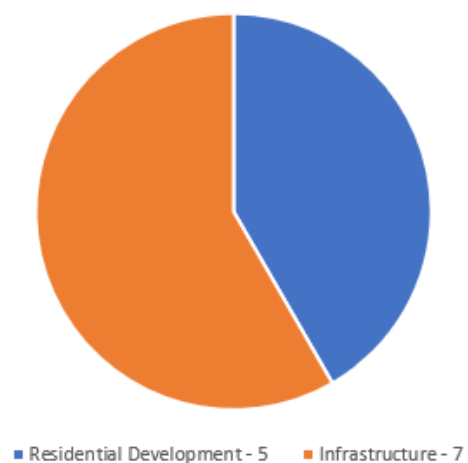
17 projects were listed in Schedule 2 of the FTCA and could be applied for consents directly. Some projects applied in stages.

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

Listed projects by status



Listed projects consented by sector





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