



22 October 2024

OIAD-1278

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 24 September 2024:

- 1) *A copy of the full and complete application made by Coronet Village Ltd and its agent under the Fast track Approvals Bill, along with any subsequent information and communications relating to the application, including feedback provided by any staff or members of parliament*
- 2) *Details from the application of the landownership of the properties that make up the Coronet Village proposal, including any confirmation that the owners/administrators are aware and supportive of the proposal. This request specifically includes:*
 - a. *Her Majesty the Queen*
 - b. *New Zealand Walking Access Commission*
 - c. *Soho Property Ltd*
- 3) *Confirmation that has been provided by Coronet Village Ltd that the QE2 Trust Covenant over a large area of the land can and will be uplifted to enable development.*

I note that on 7 October 2024, you emailed the Ministry and requested a copy of the full application [that was submitted by Coronet Village Ltd]. Per section 15(1AA) of the Act, we consider you amended your request after the date on which it was received, and therefore the Ministry is treating your amended request as a new request that replaces the original request under the Act.

You may be interested to know that Ministers recently received a report from an independent Advisory Group with recommendations on the suitability of projects for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Bill. Due to the high public interest in the Bill, the Ministry has proactively released the report on our website at the following link: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/>. The report includes an overview of the terms of reference for the Advisory Group, and a summary of all assessed project applications, both successful and unsuccessful.

I would also encourage you to review the information that the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Hon Chris Bishop, has released on the Beehive website relating to the Bill. Hon Chris Bishop's press releases can be found at: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/minister/hon-chris-bishop>.

Due to the public interest in the Fast-track Approvals Bill and projects that applied to be considered for inclusion within the schedules of the Bill, the Ministry plans to proactively release material we hold relating to all applications on our website by 28 November 2024.

Once published, you will be able to navigate to the applications through our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/>.

Therefore, the Ministry must refuse your request at this time under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is soon to be publicly available.

Please note that the material proactively released on our website is likely to include redactions made under section 9 of the Act, particularly under the following withholding grounds:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(b)(ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

The 149 projects chosen by Cabinet to be listed in the Bill will be listed in Schedule 2 of the Bill once the Bill is reported back from the Environment Committee in mid-October. All projects listed in Schedule 2 of the Bill, once it is passed into law, will still be required to apply to an Expert Consenting Panel (Panel) for their consents. While the Bill process is faster than standard Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) processes, the Panel is still required to assess the environmental impacts of the project against the RMA, relevant national direction, and other relevant local planning documents.

If they decide to grant an application, the Panel can also recommend conditions to ensure adverse effects of the project on the environment are managed appropriately. This process will be managed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). More information about all projects in the consent process will be made available in due course on the EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/status>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to refuse this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Stephanie Frame
Manager, Fast Track Consenting
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao