

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5F19-T

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-02 22:50:31

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2B

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
ForestryCo Limited

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Cameron Leslie

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Forest Manager

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:
s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

519B Kamo Road, Whangarei, Northland

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

The property is located at the end of Waitaia Road, Whitianga

File upload:
Woodcock Valley Forest Road 1 - 01.05.2024 - A3 - Landscape (2).pdf was uploaded

Upload file here:
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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

upload file:

Record of Title.pdf was uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Warwick Sutherland Wilson & Woodcock Valley Limited

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

ForestryCo Ltd. is an enterprise currently working with the property owner. ForestryCo Ltd. is not the legal property owner. ForestryCo is acting as a representative on behalf of the property owner.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Waitaia Access

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The project seeks to construct a temporary access road through adjoining DOC land to gain access to the aforementioned property to allow the harvest of 85 hectares of Pinus radiata.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

This project seeks to obtain approval to construct a short temporary access road across DOC land to provide the only economically viable access to harvest 85 hectares of pinus radiata plantation. An application to DoC for approval was initially approved (subject to Public notification) and later declined. The decision has left approximately s9(2)(b) of radiata pine land locked and unable to be harvested. The partner owners were originally 10 couples who funded the forest through to maturity as a retirement investment and now include 5 widows.

The original project had relied on using the proposed access road which was at that time (1974) partly across Crown land and administered by the NZ Forest Service. The NZFS land was later transferred to DOC. While DOC were always supportive of the forest the application for access was declined based on the Supreme Court decision in the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Case.

The activities include earthworks, mechanised forest harvesting and log freight transport. The purpose of this project is to improve the local economy through increased employment as well as supply domestic and export log markets.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

- Consultation - 3 months
- Procurement - 1 month
- Earthworks - 2 months
- Harvesting operations (logging / transport) - 12 months

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

NES-CF, Waikato Regional Council, Thames Coromandel District Council, Department of Conservation

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

As above

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

See the attached timeline of the history of the DOC application which was lodged in 2008 and declined in 2018

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Department of Conservation (DOC)

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

- Consultation - 3 months
- Procurement - 1 month
- Earthworks - 2 months
- Harvesting operations (logging / transport) - 12 months

The project would commence immediately

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

Waikato Regional Council, Thames Coromandel District Council, Department of Conservation, Hei o Wharekaho Settlement Trust, Ngāti Hei Charitable Trust, Hauraki Māori Trust Board

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

As part of the process of seeking a concession from the Department of Conservation leading to the decision of 2016, the applicant and the Department of Conservation consulted various interested parties including mana whenua of the region and received no opposition at that time. The relevant local authorities were engaged in this discussion. The then Mayor of the Thames Coromandel District Council wrote a submission in support of the application.

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Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

Nil

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

Nil

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Nil

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Nil

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

Yes

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Nil

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Nil

Upload your assessment if necessary:

Waitaia Forestry Limited DoC Application Timeline.pdf was uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

The attached DoC Concession Officer Report details clearly the provisions for mitigation of any possible adverse effects as required By Doc and agreed by both Parties

Upload file:

21-6-16 PAC-03-04-1052 - Waitaia Forestry Ltd. Reconsideration report. Signed (1).pdf was uploaded

Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

The project would need to be assessed against the National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry

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Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

The ability to advance the harvesting by permitting the construction of a new road through Department of Conservation land

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Not Answered

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project:

increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, contribute to a well-functioning urban environment

Please explain your answer here:

Yes given that the logs associated with the forest will be supplied to the domestic market creating more wood for building supplies.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes, permitting access to the Waitaia Forest will yield greater than \$5,000,000.00 gross through harvesting proceeds which would significantly benefit the local economy.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

Nil

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Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:

Cameron Stuart Leslie

Important notes