

2 May 2024

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and the Expert Panel
Parliament Buildings
Private Bag 18041
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister

New Papakura courthouse fast track consent application

The Ministry of Justice (Ministry) has one project, the New Papakura District Courthouse project, which we would like to be considered for inclusion in the *Category A Listed Projects*.

The current Papakura District Courthouse is a leaky building which continues to have significant negative effects for building users. Ensuring the air quality in the building is suitable for ongoing occupation remains a concern. The building is at significant risk of being unusable in the short to medium term which would lead to significant disruption within the Auckland court network which is already facing capacity issues. It is not cost effective to remediate the building due to its poor condition. Even if it was remediated, the courthouse would still suffer from operational issues and security concerns.

Therefore, the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) is proposing to invest around s 9(2)(b)(ii) in capital expenditure to build a new modular courthouse on a nearby site, 40 Elliot Street owned by the Ministry. This investment builds resilience into the justice system and addresses the building condition, mitigates risk of building closure and provides a safer, healthier place to work. The outcome of this work includes an improvement in the wellbeing of court staff and overall experience of all persons participating in or accessing justice services at Papakura District Court.

The project is part of the Ministry's 10-year infrastructure investment plan to restore and modernise buildings across the Ministry of Justice's property portfolio which was considered by Cabinet in July 2020. Funding for the project has been allocated in the Ministry's capital projections. Subject to a business case for the project being approved by the Minister of Justice, the Ministry anticipates work on building the new courthouse to begin in the 2024/25 year and the new courthouse being ready to be used in the 2026/27 year.

Obtaining the necessary planning permissions in a timely manner is a key constraint to the project. Delays due to issues with planning permissions would increase the risk of the current courthouse being unusable before the replacement can be built.

Yours sincerely



Jerome Sheppard
General Manager Property