

BRF-3062

David Langford  
Chief Executive  
Whanganui District Council  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear David Langford

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Alabaster Residential Development Project**

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from Craig and Nicole Alabaster to refer the Alabaster Residential Development Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA, I invite Whanganui District Council to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2. Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and on any other matter you consider relevant to the Minister's decision on whether or not to accept the application.

Specific questions on the application
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Are there any reasons that you consider it more appropriate for the project, or part of the project, to proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the FTCA?</li><li>2. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your district?</li><li>3. How does the project align with urban growth planning in your district?</li><li>4. How does the project align with the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022?</li></ol>



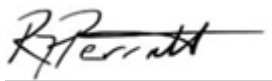
The above information is provided to you in confidence and as part of the statutory process set out in the FTCA. Please do not forward the application or request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred to a panel, Whanganui District Council will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine the RMA approvals for the project. The applicants will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessments at this stage and the council will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when making his decision. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If it is more efficient for you to discuss the application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at [fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Perrett', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Rebecca Perrett  
**Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team**

Appendix:

- A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Alabaster Residential Development Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link)
2. Response template for written comments

## Appendix A – Details of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Alabaster Residential Development Project	Craig and Nicole Alabaster	<p>The project is to subdivide land at Cedar Drive and Camellia Avenue, Aramoho, Whanganui to enable residential development. The project will create approximately 176 allotments for residential purposes and 17 allotments for access, public open space and other uses, and will include new roads, footpaths and three-waters infrastructure.</p> <p>The project will involve activities such as clearing vegetation, carrying out earthworks, discharging stormwater and contaminants to land, constructing residential units, constructing infrastructure including roads, vehicle and pedestrian access and three waters services, landscaping and planting.</p>