



20 February 2023

BRF-2681

Ministers of/for:

Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Infrastructure; Education; Transport; Land Information; Defence; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Conservation; and Climate Change;

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Ara Weiti Village 1 Project

Ara Weiti Development Limited has applied to refer the Ara Weiti Village 1 Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA.

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 certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

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

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If I accept the application and the project is referred, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the project, and a panel will be appointed to consider and decide them. The applicant must provide a more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of their RMA applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panel.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish me to take them into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the referral application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

- A. Description of proposed project

Attachment:

1. Application to refer Ara Weiti Village 1 Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Attachment A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Ara Weiti Village 1 Project	Ara Weiti Development Limited	<p>The project is to subdivide approximately 33.5 hectares of land at Ara Weiti Road, Okura Bush, Auckland to enable construction of an urban development. The project will create 220 residential lots, one 4-hectare balance lot (intended for a retirement village), one lot intended for future commercial use, and will include the construction and operation of a community centre/whare manaaki). The project will include construction of roads and three-waters infrastructure, streamworks and ecological restoration, and creation of open space and reserves.</p> <p>The project includes construction of public facilities including a cleaning station, public seating and toilets, a beach dune boardwalk and artwork and information boards along a coastal walkway, as required by the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) Weiti Precinct Overlay. Delivery of these aspects of the project are conditional upon third-party approvals as they will occur on land not owned by the applicant.</p> <p>The project involves activities such as clearing vegetation, carrying out earthworks (including within 10 metres of a natural wetland), subdivision, constructing a community building, constructing roads and three-waters services, and landscaping and stream restoration.</p>