

BRF-2681

20 February 2023

Dave Chambers  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Watercare Services Limited  
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Dave Chambers

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

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from Ara Weiti Development Limited to refer the Ara Weiti Village 1 Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The purpose of the FTCA is to 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.

Watercare Services Limited may have an interest in the project because it may impact on the local three waters network. Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite Watercare Services Limited's written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2.

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 are referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant must provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of this process.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the referral

application. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or 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



Madeleine Berry  
**Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team**

Appendix:

A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Ara Weiti Village 1 Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Response template for written comments

cc: Katja Huls, Development Programme Lead, s 9(2)(a)  
Shane Lawton, Head of Developer Services, s 9(2)(a)

## Appendix 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>