

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



BRF-2995

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 – Arawhata Wetland Project

Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) has applied to refer the Arawhata Wetland 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', with a stylized, flowing script.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

A. Description of proposed project

Attachment:

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

Appendix A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Arawhata Wetland	Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons)	The project is to construct engineered treatment wetlands and restore previously drained natural wetlands in the Arawhata Stream catchment of Punahau/Lake Horowhenua in Manawatū-Whanganui. The project site covers an area of approximately 119 hectares, located at 269 and 308 Hokio Beach Road, 217 Arawhata Road, Levin and adjacent land (legally described as Section 4 Survey Office Plan 465440). The project will include works within the Hokio Beach Road and Arawhata Road reserves. The project involves activities such as carrying out earthworks (including disturbing contaminated soils), constructing weir in the river, upgrading existing culverts, constructing bund/stopbank, discharging of water (which may contain contaminants) into water and onto land, taking and using of groundwater, planting and landscaping.

