

BRF-2995

Paul Goodeve
Chief Executive Officer
First Gas Limited
Email: reception@firstgas.co.nz

Dear Paul Goodeve

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Arawhata Wetland Project

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from Manawātū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) to refer the Arawhata Wetland 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.

First Gas Limited may have an interest in the project because of the potential for adverse effects on the existing gas transmission pipeline traversing the project site. Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite First Gas 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.

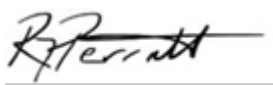
If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant must provide a detailed assessment of environmental 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 to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R 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 Arawhata Wetland Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Response template for written comments

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.