

2020-B-07243

Mike Theelen
Chief Executive
Queenstown Lakes District Council
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Mike

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Winery, Restaurant, Education and Event Complex – Comments sought

In the week commencing 12 October 2020, the Minister for the Environment received an application to refer the above project to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act). The proposed project is located within the Queenstown area.

The project is described as follows, and a copy of the application is attached:

Winery, Restaurant, Education and Event Complex

Construction and operation of a winery complex that provides onsite wine making including bottling and storage, restaurant and cellar door, training, and event facilities.

Under delegated authority from the Minister for the Environment, I invite you to provide written comments on the proposed project pursuant to section 21(2) of the Act (a template is attached for this purpose). Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and any further information you consider relevant to the Minister for the Environment's decision on whether to refer the project to an expert consenting panel. If it is more efficient to discuss this application, please contact me or my team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz and we will make ourselves available for a discussion with you.

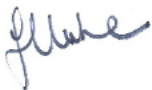
Specific questions on the application

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 Act?
2. Feedback on the pre-application engagement undertaken with the applicant, including any formal pre-application meeting minutes/advice.
3. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your district?

Also note that if the Minister for the Environment decides to refer the project to a panel, you 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 application. Applicants will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects at this next stage and you will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel. The Ministry for the Environment has prepared guidance on local authority involvement with fast-track consenting projects which you can access on the Ministry for the Environment website.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days so that the Minister for the Environment can take your comments into consideration when deciding on the application.

Yours sincerely



Sara Clarke
Manager, Fast-Track Consenting Team

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer the Winery, Restaurant, Education and Event Complex project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information
- B. Response template for written comments

cc: Fiona Blight, Consents Manager
Queenstown Lakes District Council,

s 9(2)(a)