



2020-B-07284

17 DEC 2020

Jenny Carter
Resource Management Planner
JCarter Planning
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jenny Carter

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 - Notice of Decision (Section 25)
– Winery, Restaurant, Education and Event Complex**

Thank you for Otago Viticulture and Oenology Limited (Trading as Brennan Wines) application under section 20 of COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA) seeking that the Winery, Restaurant, Education and Event Complex Project (the Project) be referred to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the FTCA.

The Project involves constructing a winery complex that will expand current facilities at an established vineyard in the Gibbston Valley near Queenstown. It will provide for onsite wine making including bottling and storage, restaurant and cellar door, training, and event facilities at 110 Gibbston Back Road, Otago.

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 the certainty of ongoing investment across New Zealand, while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

I can only refer a project to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the FTCA, if the project meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA which includes me being satisfied the project will help achieve the FTCA's purpose.

I have decided the project meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA and I consider the project will help to achieve the FTCA's purpose because it has the potential to:

1. provide specialist and local employment opportunities for construction jobs and ongoing additional permanent jobs in the Otago wine-making region and other regions (section 19(d)(i) of the FTCA).
2. enable construction to start sooner than if consents were sought through standard Resource Management Act (RMA) processes (section 19(c) of the FTCA).
3. provide economic benefits for the winemaking industry, being an industry affected by COVID-19 (section 19(a) of the FTCA).

Any potential adverse effects arising from the application and mitigation measures can be considered and determined by an expert consenting panel having regard to Part 2 of the Resource Management Act and the purpose of the FTCA (section 4 and clause 31 Schedule 6).

Accordingly, I have decided to accept your application for referral under section 24(2) of the FTCA and refer all of the Project to an expert consenting panel.

I consider that this information will inform an expert consenting panel's assessment of the application's effects and whether to invite comment from persons or groups in addition to those specified in clause 17 Schedule 6 of the FTCA. This does not preclude an expert consenting panel from requiring you to provide any additional information on any application lodged with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under the FTCA.

These directions also do not preclude a panel from inviting other parties to comment on any application lodged with the EPA under this FTCA.

I will progress an Order in Council through Executive Council for the Project. Once this Order is made you are able to lodge your application with the EPA for a consent decision by an expert consenting panel. Please do not publicly release my decision or this notice until the Order in Council for the Project has been approved by Cabinet and published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

The FTCA requires that:

1. I provide a copy of this decision to the persons, entities and groups specified in section 25(1) and (2) of the FTCA
2. my decision, the reasons for my decision and the section 17 report will be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website under section 25(3) of the FTCA.

Please contact officials at the Ministry for the Environment (fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) if you have any questions or wish to discuss this decision.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

cc Ministers of/for:

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