

BRF-30

9 June 2021

Jim Stabback  
Chief Executive Officer  
Auckland Council

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jim Stabback

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Drury Central and Paerata Stations – Comments sought**

In the week commencing Monday 26 April 2021, KiwiRail Holdings Limited applied to the Minister for the Environment (the Minister) to refer the Drury Central and Paerata Stations project (the Project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The Project is described below, and a link to all application documents is provided in the covering email.

The Project is to construct, upgrade, protect, operate and maintain:

- a. a railway station, including rail platforms, buildings and structures, on the North Island Main Trunk railway line at Drury
- b. a railway station, including rail platforms, buildings and structures, on the North Island Main Trunk railway line at Paerata
- c. transport interchange facilities at both station locations including:
  - i. park and ride areas
  - ii. train and bus interchange and layovers
  - iii. accessways, paths and plazas
  - iv. cycle parking facilities.

The first site, for the Drury Central Station, is located to the southeast of Drury township on multiple landholdings accessed off Great South Road, Flanagan Road and Waihoehoe Road. The second site, for the Paerata Station, is located at Paerata (approximately 3 kilometres north of Pukekohe) on multiple landholdings accessed off State Highway 22, Paerata Road and Sim Road.

The Project is proposed in at least two stages. Stage 1 will involve enabling works, civil works and construction of the initial stages of the railway stations and transport interchange facilities. Stage 2 will include expansion of the railway station tracks and platforms together with other public transport interconnections in response to demand for increased services.

The applicant is seeking land use consent, and water and discharge permits under both the Auckland Unitary Plan and the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-F) and land use consent under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011 (NES-CS). The applicant also intends to lodge notices of requirement for four designations for the Project (two at each station location to differentiate between the railway facilities and the interchange facilities) to be determined through the fast-track process.

Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is attached for this purpose. Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and on any other matter you consider relevant to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the Project to a panel.

If it is more efficient to discuss this application, please contact me or my team at [fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) to arrange an appointment.

Specific questions/suggestions 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 FTCA?
2. Clarify the relevance of Private Plan Change 48 to the Project.
3. Given that there are a range of existing designations located in the Project site, clarify whether the application covers the full scope of notice of requirements, resource consents or changes to existing designations that would be required to authorise the Project.
4. What reports and assessments would normally be required by the council for a project of this nature in this area?
5. Does the applicant have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your city/region?
6. Given the Project comprises part of the broader Te Tupu Ngātahi Supporting Growth Programme and mana whenua is one of the project partners, please provide comment (including any input from Independent Māori Statutory Board, if appropriate) on opportunities this Project may offer for mana whenua, or any other matter relating to mana whenua interests that may be of relevance to the referral decision.



Also note that if the Minister decides to refer the Project to a panel, the council 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 resource consent applications and notice of requirement for the project. The applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects at this stage and the council 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 to ensure that the Minister will take your comments into consideration when deciding on the referral application. Please note that the Minister is not required to consider comments provided after this time, although he can still choose to do so.

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Frame  
**Manager, Fast-Track Consenting Team**

Enclosures:

A. Response template for written comments

cc: Ian Smallburn, General Manager Resource Consents  
Auckland Council, [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)