

BRF-30

9 June 2021

Jon Lamonte
Chief Executive Officer
Watercare
Email: [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jon Lamonte

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 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.

You have been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the Project because the application seeks designation on Watercare's designated land (Designation 9566) to undertake Drury Central Station works. On behalf of the Minister and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite you to provide written comments on these referral applications. 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.

Specific questions on the application
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clarify Watercare's position regarding overlapping designations with Drury Central Station's indicative footprint.2. What are the outcomes of discussions undertaken with the applicant regarding the likely approvals required under section 177 of the Resource Management Act 1991? In particular, please clarify the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the likely timing of reaching to an agreement and getting Watercare's approval?• What is Watercare's understanding of who has responsibility for the transferred designation and assets within the designation in the post construction/delivery phase?3. Clarify whether any land/property agreement with the applicant be required pursuant to the Public Works Act 1981 or others. If yes, what is the likely timing of reaching to an agreement?

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. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If the Minister decides to refer the project to a panel, the applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects with any resource consent applications that they lodge with the panel.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or to discuss this application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

This 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 the request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Frame
Manager, Fast-Track Consenting Team

Enclosures:

A. Response template for written comments

cc. Ilze Gotelli, Head of Major Developments,
Watercare, [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

Shane Lawton,
Watercare, [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)