

2020-B-07194

Nic Etheridge
General Manager – Policy, Planning and Regulatory
Porirua City Council

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Nic Etheridge

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Eastern Porirua Regeneration Project - Infrastructure Works – Comments sought

In the week commencing 14 September 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 Porirua.

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

Eastern Porirua Regeneration Project – Infrastructure Works

This project will upgrade three waters infrastructure (water, wastewater and stormwater) to support the Eastern Porirua Regeneration Project (EPRP). The EPRP will replace 2,000 existing state homes with approximately 2,300 new state homes and 1,500 affordable homes in eastern Porirua.

The project consists of the following three components:

- The construction of an additional water reservoir adjacent to the existing reservoir in Whitby. The purpose of this is to ensure there is sufficient water supply capacity to deal with current and future demand.
- The replacement of a wastewater main in Bothamley Park to address existing performance issues and ensure there is sufficient capacity to deal with future demand.
- The construction of a wetland in Cannons Creek Park to mitigate current and future flood risks and treat stormwater prior to discharge.

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 on the next page, 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, officials from the Fast-track Consenting Team will be available for a discussion with you. Please contact us at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz.

Information requirements

1. How do these infrastructure projects align with other infrastructure projects currently being carried out, or being planned for Porirua City?
2. How does this project support urban growth not associated with the Eastern Porirua Regeneration Programme?
3. Are there any reasons that you consider it more appropriate for the project, or part of the project, to continue to proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the Act?
4. Do the applicants have any past or current breaches/notices or litigation related to environmental regulatory compliance that you are aware of?
5. If the project progresses to the expert consenting panel, are there any technical reports that you would request the applicant provide in their consent application?
6. If the project progresses to the expert consenting panel, are there any groups that the expert consenting panel should invite to provide comments on the application?

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.

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.

Yours sincerely



Liz Moncrieff
Acting Director, Natural and Built Systems

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer the Eastern Porirua Regeneration Project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information
- B. Response template for written comments