

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



2020-B-07296

10 MAR 2021

Peter Coop
Resource Consent Consultant
Urban Perspectives Ltd
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Peter Coop

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 - Notice of Decision (Section 25)
– Adaptation of the Executive Wing of Parliament**

Thank you for your application under section 20 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA) seeking that the Adaptation of the Executive Wing of Parliament Project (the Project) be referred to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the FTCA.

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. Further, I am able to decline to refer a project for any reason, under section 23(2) of the FTCA.

I have considered whether the Project meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA. Parliament is an important institution, and the earthquake defects are a significant concern. However, while I consider that a Project of this nature and scale would be able to be determined by an expert consenting panel, I do not think it is the appropriate course. I believe it would be more appropriate for the Project to go through a normal consenting process under the Resource Management Act 1991 (section 23(5)(b) of the FTCA), given the location of the Project within New Zealand's Parliamentary Precinct. I note normal processes include the option of requesting the application go directly to the Environment Court under section 87D of the Resource Management Act 1991, which could be an appropriate process in this case.

As required by the FTCA:

1. I am providing a copy of this decision to the persons, entities and groups specified in section 25(1) 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

Local Authorities:

Wellington City Council; Greater Wellington Regional Council

Other Agencies:

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga