



BRF-1285

21 March 2022

David Ward
Chief Executive Officer
Selwyn District Council
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear David Ward

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Faringdon Oval project

The Minister for the Environment (the Minister) has received an application from Hughes Developments Limited to refer the Faringdon Oval 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 in Attachment A and a copy of the application documents is electronically attached.

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 or not to accept the application.

The above 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 request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

Specific questions on the application
1. 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 FTCA?
2. What reports and assessments would normally be required by the Council for a project of this nature in this area?
3. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your district?
4. Is three waters (stormwater, water supply and wastewater) infrastructure currently available to service the proposed development? If not, when is it likely to become available?

If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred 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 RMA approvals for the project. The applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessments 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 takes your comments into consideration when making his decision. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If it is more efficient for you to discuss the application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Frame', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Frame
Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team

Attachments:

- A. Details of proposed project
- B. Application to refer the Faringdon Oval project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information
- C. Response template for written comments

cc: s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
s 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Attachment A – Details of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Faringdon Oval	Hughes Developments Limited	<p>The Project is to subdivide a 69.3-hectare site bounded by Dunns Crossing Road, Goulds Road and Selwyn Road, Rolleston to create approximately 1050 residential lots which will enable residential development by third parties, and to construct residential units on approximately 300 of those lots, create lots for commercial use, and construct supporting infrastructure including roads and three-waters services, and open space.</p> <p>The Project involves activities such as: subdividing land, carrying out earthworks (including disturbing potentially contaminated soils), clearing vegetation, discharging stormwater and contaminants to land, taking, diverting and discharging groundwater to land, constructing buildings, constructing infrastructure including for vehicle access, roads, parking, public transport and three waters services, developing land for open spaces including landscaping and planting.</p>