

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



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Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations—Te Arawhiti, Housing; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Oceans and Fisheries; Local Government; Land Information; Economic and Regional Development; Defence; Transport; and Climate Change

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on application for referral – 2021-048 – Hananui Aquaculture Project – Rakiura/ Stewart Island

Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited has applied to refer the Hananui Aquaculture Project (the Project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA.

The aim of the FTCA is to promote employment to support New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources and meet Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

The Project is described in the enclosed schedule, and a copy of the application is electronically attached. As the project lies in the Coastal Marine Area, the Minister of Conservation and I will jointly decide on the referral application.

On behalf of myself and the Minister of Conservation, I invite you to provide written comments on the Project under section 21(2) of the FTCA. We note that if this Project is referred to a panel for determination, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. A more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment will be required as part of these applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panel.

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, including any Crown Entity or statutory body.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you would like us to take them into consideration when making a decision on whether or not to accept the application and refer the Project to a panel.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Enclosures:

- A. Schedule of proposed project
- B. Application to refer Hananui Aquaculture project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information

Appendix A - Schedule of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Hananui Aquaculture Project	Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited	<p>The Project is to construct and operate an open ocean marine farm (salmon) within a 2500 hectare area of the CMA, including 500 hectares of exclusive occupation of the CMA, located 2-6 kilometres off the northern coast of Rakiura/Stewart Island.</p> <p>The Project comprises four separate marine farms including five anchored barges proposed as operational bases for the farms. It will be developed in four stages over ten years to produce up to 16,000 tonnes of salmon per annum.</p> <p>The Project proposes adaptive management where management practices are modified throughout the life of the Project to remedy and mitigate adverse effects.</p> <p>The Project will involve activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• works to construct and install net pens, mooring lines, anchors, navigational aids and lights and other structures• disturbance and occupation of the seabed• moorings for five barges• introduction of exotic fauna• deposition of material on the seabed• discharges of water and contaminants to water• all other works associated with the above activities.