



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 4) 2022

Portfolios **Environment / Conservation**

On 4 April 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Acting Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Conservation have decided under section 24 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act) to accept the application for referral of the following project to a panel:
 - 1.1 Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited's Hananui Aquaculture project;
- 2 **noted** that Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited's Hananui Aquaculture project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18 of the Act, and is considered to help achieve the Act's purpose by:
 - 2.1 having positive effects on social well-being by providing opportunities for year-round employment that will assist in sustaining the Stewart Island/Rakiura and Bluff communities;
 - 2.2 generating approximately 50–180 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in years 1–5 of the project associated with farm construction, monitoring, farm management, harvesting and processing;
 - 2.3 generating approximately 500 FTE jobs associated with marine farming and processing once the farm reaches full production;
 - 2.4 providing opportunities to build an economic base and provide for food security, economic development and employment for local Māori;
 - 2.5 progressing faster using the Act's processes than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes, provided that the applicant lodges their resource consent applications with the Environmental Protection Agency in a timely manner following project referral;
- 3 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 4) 2022 requires Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited to provide to an expert consenting panel additional technical reports including on engineering, public access, navigational safety, project staging and effects on: water column, seabed, oysters, biosecurity, sharks, marine mammals, seabirds, penguins, wild fish, landscape and natural character, as detailed in Appendix three to the submission under CAB-22-SUB-0107;

- 4 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 4) 2022 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited's Hananui Aquaculture project to seek comments from 18 additional parties as listed in Appendix three;
- 5 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 4) 2022 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited's Hananui Aquaculture project to issue its final decision on any resource consent application lodged with the Environmental Protection Agency for the project no later than 90 days after the date specified for receiving comments under clause 18(1) Schedule 6 of the Act as detailed in Appendix three;
- 6 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 4) 2022 [PCO 24598/4.0];
- 7 **noted** that on 27 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to waivers of the 28-day rule so that Orders in Council made under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 can come into force as soon as they are notified in the New Zealand Gazette [CAB-20-MIN-0353];
- 8 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 4) 2022 will come into force on 8 April 2022.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982