



2020-B-07282

5 March 2021

Vaughan Payne
Chief Executive
Waikato Regional Council
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Vaughan

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Kōpū Marine Precinct – Comments sought

In the week commencing 7 December 2020, the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Conservation received an application from Thames-Coromandel District Council to refer the above Project to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

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

Kōpū Marine Precinct – Thames Coromandel

Construction of the Kōpū Marine Precinct comprising an upgraded commercial slipway, a new wharf and pontoon, a new recreational boat ramp, and the creation of an unsealed recreational car park area and the forming of an unsealed road (King Street) (the Project).

The Project involves disturbance of contaminated soil, removal of indigenous and exotic vegetation in the CMA, structures in the CMA, vehicle access associated with construction, disturbance of and deposition on the foreshore and seabed, works on land within a high-risk erosion area, deposition and works within a modified water course, earthworks and vehicle generation from the use of the recreational activities and commercial slipways.

On behalf of myself and the Minister of Conservation, I invite you to provide written comments on the referred application pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA (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 our decision on whether to refer the project to an expert consenting panel. If it is more efficient to discuss this application, please contact our team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

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 proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the FTCA?
2. Are there any issues arising from the Project being located within the existing land designated for River Control Purposes?
3. What reports and assessments would normally be required by the Council for a project of this nature in this area?
4. Does the applicant have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your Region?

Also note that if we decide 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 resource consent application(s) for the Project. 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.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days so that we can take your comments into consideration when deciding on the application.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer the Kōpū Marine Precinct Project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information
- B. Response template for written comments

cc: Chris McLay, Consents Manager, Waikato Regional Council,
s 9(2)(a)