

BRF-2932

Pieri Munro
Interim Chief Executive
Hawkes Bay Regional Council
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Pieri Munro

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Maraekakaho Quarry Project

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from R W and M C Gale Family Trust to refer the Maraekakaho Quarry Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA, I invite Hawkes Bay Regional Council to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2. 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.

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. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your region?

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.

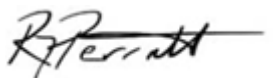
If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred to a panel, Hawkes Bay Regional Council will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine the RMA approvals for the 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.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them 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



Rebecca Perrett
Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team

Appendix:

- A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Maraekakaho Quarry Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link)
2. Response template for written comments

cc: Katrina Brunton, Policy and Regulation Group Manager,
s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Details of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Maraekakaho Quarry Project	R W and M C Gale Family Trust	<p>The project is to establish and operate a quarry on approximately 29.2 hectares of land at State Highway 50, Maraekakaho, Hawkes Bay. The project will include extraction of up to 6.42 million cubic metres of gravel aggregate over a period of up to 20 years, stockpiling processed aggregate on site, construction of infrastructure, including upgrading an existing vehicle access off State Highway 50, and structures associated with quarry operations and site remediation upon completion. The processing of the gravel aggregate will be undertaken on an adjacent site immediately to the north of the project site under existing consents granted by held by Russel Roads Limited.</p> <p>The project involves activities such as removing vegetation, extracting and stockpiling gravel aggregate, taking, diverting and discharging groundwater and discharging to land and water, diverting the surface water of the Ngaruroro River during flood events, discharging stormwater and contaminants to land and water, undertaking earthworks, undertaking remediation including creating artificial lakes and landscaping and planting, constructing roads and vehicle accessways, constructing or installing infrastructure or structures, storing hazardous materials.</p>