

BRF-2679

7 February 2023

Nigel Corry  
Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Wellington Regional Council  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Nigel Corry

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Metlifecare Retirement Village - Karori Project**

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from Metlifecare Retirement Villages to refer the Metlifecare Retirement Village - Karori 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 Greater Wellington 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. 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 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, Greater Wellington 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. 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 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](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely



Madeleine Berry  
**Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team**

Appendix:

A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

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

cc: Luke Troy, General Manager Strategy Group, s 9(2)(a)  
Alistair Cross, General Manager Environment Management Group,  
s 9(2)(a)  
Shaun Andrewartha, Environment Consents Manager,  
s 9(2)(a)

## Appendix A – Details of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Metlifecare Retirement Village – Karori Project	Metlifecare Retirement Villages Limited	<p>The project is to redevelop an existing retirement village on a 1.2 hectare site to construct and operate a new retirement village at 29 Messines Road, Karori, Wellington, consisting of approximately 80 residential units and 55 care suites in 4 buildings of 3 and 4 storeys in height. The project will include communal amenity spaces, parking (including basement parking), connections to infrastructure, landscaping and planting.</p> <p>The project involves activities such as building demolition, vegetation clearance, carrying out earthworks, constructing buildings, structures and infrastructure, discharging stormwater and contaminants to land, installing signage, landscaping and planting.</p>