

PROPERTY **E**CONOMICS



NGONGOTAHĀ DEVELOPMENT

FAST TRACK ECONOMIC IMPACT

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Client: Watchman Residential Ltd

Project No: 52269

Date: February 2023



SCHEDULE

Code	Date	Information / Comments	Project Leader
52269.3	February 2023	Report	Phil Osborne

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1. INTRODUCTION

Property Economics have been asked to summarise the economic impacts that will flow from the application by Watchman Residential Limited for resource consents relating to the construction of 196 residential units at Ngongotahā, Rotorua (“the Project”).

This economic impact overview relates to the application to have the Project referred to the FastTrack process.

This economic impact estimates the total additional gross economic output¹ into the Bay of Plenty economy that would be facilitated about by the Project. The initial specifications and details have been provided by the applicant and represent the development's configuration and costings at this point in time. It is important to note that this is not site specific. It is assumed the Ngongotahā area represents an efficient location for future growth and therefore the associated infrastructure is location specific. Additionally, the assessment has not endeavoured to identify the extent to which particular parts of the Bay of Plenty Region will benefit economically. It assesses the likely economic impacts upon aggregate Bay of Plenty business activity given the composition of activities proposed.

The economic impacts likely to be experienced as a result of the Project are broken down by the development phase which includes the construction costs (CAPEX²) of the facilitated activities and the proportion of those costs that are retained within the Region.

¹ For example, this has not taken into account the short-term loss of operational employment currently on site.

² CAPEX – Capital Expenditure

The direct economic impacts are derived from the actual spending / expenses incurred through the operation of the facilitated development.

Indirect economic impacts are the increased spending brought about by those firms / households and their employees / occupants, who supply the development, while induced economic benefits are measured in terms of the additional income that will be spent in the area due to increased business activity.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Watchman Residential Limited application proposes to develop 196 residential dwellings in Ngongotahā, Rotorua.

The direct impact on the Construction and Construction Services sectors associated with direct employment measure approximately 479 FTE years over the 5-year construction period. Direct economic injection from construction and development phases equate to around \$86.2m.

The total economic impact on business activity within Bay of Plenty as a result of the subject development over a 5-year period is estimated to be just over \$104 million (NPV)³. In terms of employment multipliers⁴ this would contribute around 259⁵ FTEs during the peak development and operation year within Bay of Plenty, with a total of just under 886 FTE years over the 5-year development period.

³ Net Present Value

⁴ Employment Multipliers relate to the level of indirect and induced employment activity generated through the expenditure on and off site.

⁵ NB These are all jobs created through the direct construction phase including indirect and induced employment through all business sectors (not solely construction jobs) and relate to job years rather than one employee.

3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

In assessing the potential economic impacts, it is important to firstly establish the context in which they will be assessed. For the purposes of this assessment the three important parameters are:

- 1) The geospatial extent of the economic impact. While facilitation of additional housing provision is likely to have a national economic impact, the majority of impacts are likely to be retained within the Bay of Plenty Region. As identified, for the purposes of this assessment, the extent of economic impacts is focussed on the retention of activity within this area.
- 2) The economic impacts are those resulting from the residential development over a five-year period.
- 3) In terms of the statutory considerations the RMA provides context in terms of the utilisation of resources and the resulting impact on the price and provision of these resources. It calls for the "*efficient use and development of natural and physical resources*", with economic efficiency being defined as "*the effectiveness of resource allocation in the economy as a whole such that outputs of goods and services fully reflect consumer preferences for these goods and services as well as individual goods and services being produced at minimum cost through appropriate mixes of factor inputs*", Part II section 7 (b) RMA.

As identified the proposed development is likely to have economic impacts that are felt beyond the specific costs and benefits within the region. Additionally, there are likely to be non-economic effects, such as environmental. While these effects may result in economic impacts for the most part they have not been addressed here.

4. TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

This section assesses the potential economic activity generated within the Bay of Plenty Region specifically attributable to the Project through spending on the general civil works and residential development.

This includes construction costs, which have been valued for the overall development.

The impact of this injection on the initial business cycle has been calculated. This 'construction multiplier' was based on the national input-output tables produced by Statistics New Zealand (based on 48 sectors), which were then assessed at a district level based on Bay of Plenty economic activity, composition and productivities.

This estimates the 'leakage' from the regional economy (within specified sectors), and therefore the overall regional production (within a given business cycle) for each \$1 injected.

This was performed for the general and commercial construction sectors. These multipliers are based on 'net' flows by broad sector type and are therefore approximations.

Total output impacts to the Bay of Plenty catchment for the proposed developments include:

- Direct Construction Cost x 'Construction Multiplier' +
- Direct Development Cost x 'Development Multiplier' +
- Direct Increased Commercial Spending x 'Commercial Multiplier' +
- Indirect Business Spend x 'Commercial Multiplier' +
- Induced Retail Spending x 'Retail Multiplier'

Each identified multiplier relates simply to the economic sector from which the activity is generated.

4.1. ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions have been applied in this impact analysis in order to assess the level of economic injection into the overall economy at this time. This has some (limited) impact on the distributional effects of the costs and benefits but can be quickly adjusted to accommodate more specific construction and on-going costs and injections.

1. For the purposes of this Economic Impact Assessment, it has been assumed that the construction costs will fall within the definition of the following categories (based on a standard 'special' commercial ratio): 'residential construction', 'non-residential construction', 'non-building construction', 'other construction services.'

2. Financial or loan costs on capital primarily fall outside of the local catchment and impact the national economy.
3. The origin of labour has been assessed based on regional labour movements furnished by Statistics NZ based on 2018 data. However, employment data has been updated as per the Statistics NZ Business Frame data⁶ to March 2022.
4. This report deals with the economic impact of proposed development on Bay of Plenty. These are specifically the direct impacts related to the operation and construction of the proposed development.
5. The economic activity generated is based on the development's gross activity and does not consider this redirecting growth opportunities from elsewhere in the catchment. As stated, this assessment is not site specific.
6. For the purposes of this report a 6% discount rate has been applied.
7. Labour movements are based on average retention rates rather than specific company locations.
8. The proportion of materials and labour internalised in direct benefits to Bay of Plenty are based on standardised labour movements as well as employment and production composition within the Region. The amount of each 'flow-on' dollar retained in Bay of Plenty are based on the movement of resources (including labour) between other districts and regions.

Table 1 following outlines the resulting impacts on the Bay of Plenty economy as a result of the development.

⁶ Business Frame Data – provides Statistics NZ measure of employment in an area by ANZSIC sector.

TABLE 1: TOTAL GROSS BAY OF PLENTY ECONOMIC INJECTION OF PROJECT (FASTTRACK)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

** Increased Local Spend by residents, employees, construction workers and additional local business spend through the different stages of development.*

The preceding table illustrates that the total impact on business activity within Bay of Plenty as a result of the Ngongotahā development over a 5-year period is estimated to be in the order of \$104 million.

⁷ NB These are all jobs created through the direct construction phase including indirect and induced employment through all business sectors (not solely construction jobs).

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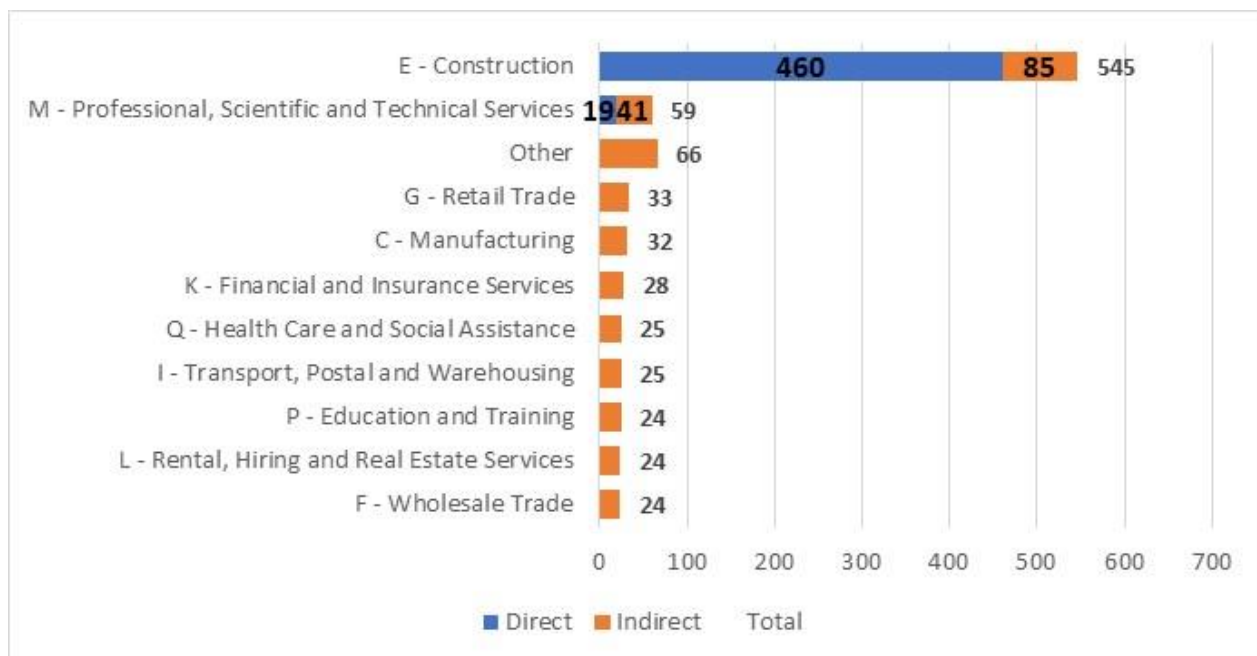
- s 9(2)(b)(ii)

4.3. TOTAL BAY OF PLENTY DIRECT AND INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT

Figure 1 below disaggregates employment generated by sector and Direct and Indirect (including induced) FTE employment over the identified period. It illustrates the significant direct impact on the Construction sector (as well as Construction Services).

The figure below illustrates the sectors associated with direct employment measure approximately 479 FTE years with the remaining around 407 FTE years resulting from indirect and induced activity

FIGURE 1: BAY OF PLENTY EMPLOYMENT GENERATION BY SECTOR (DIRECT AND INDIRECT)



Source: Property Economics

TABLE 3: TOTAL DIRECT EMPLOYMENT BY YEAR

	2024	2024	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL
Direct Employment	32	67	133	148	99	479

Source: Property Economics

Table 3 provides a further breakdown of direct FTE employment by year under the FastTrack option. The highest year is anticipated to be 2026 with 148 direct FTEs.

5. OTHER ECONOMIC COSTS AND BENEFITS

Due to the nature of the project assessed, there are a range of potential economic costs and benefits that are likely to be achieved within the market beyond the direct economic activity (employment and GDP) generated.

Economic Benefits:

1. **Increased Land / Dwelling Supply:** The proposed land area has the ability to supply the market with an additional 196 dwellings increasing capacity within a single master-planned area. This provides not only the ability for the area to improve its responsiveness to growth demands but itself facilitate further growth within the area with an increase in overall competitiveness and efficiency due to the intensity of the proposed development. This is in keeping with one of the key purposes of the FastTrack Act⁸ of increasing overall housing supply (s19(d)(ii)).

Additionally, this provides clear direction to the market regarding both its ability to meet future demand pressures and its provision through an efficient site location and size.

2. **More Affordable Housing:** The potential provision of additional feasible residential development capacity within the wider area is likely to have the impact on reducing counterfactual land values.

A significant contributor to residential property values is the underlying land values impact by growth expectations and supply. The identification of additional residential land areas suitable for development is likely to reduce price pressure in the local and surrounding markets.

3. **Decreased Marginal Infrastructure Costs:** Once again the opportunity to masterplan an area has the potential to bring with it, economies of scales and lower marginal infrastructure costs. Additionally, the 'future provision and identification' of this area allows for the future proofing of the area and the community and private infrastructure requirements.
4. **Impact on Current Employment Levels:** While Covid-19 has had a less significant impact on the general economy than initial estimated, it is clear that the next few years represent uncertain times with several crucial sectors likely to experience significant downturns and considerable restricting.

⁸ COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

While the sectors that are likely to benefit directly by this proposed development are not necessarily the hardest 'hit' sectors of the economy, they do contribute substantially to overall community wellbeing and will support greater spend and general economic activity that in turn supports greater activity in the affected sectors.

This supports a key FastTrack Act purpose of resulting in a public benefit through generating additional employment (s19(d)(i)). Additional employment opportunities contribute positively to improving income levels of many households in Rotorua, and therefore improve the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of both current and future generations (s19(b) of the Act).

6. SUMMARY

Overall, the proposed project represents a significant opportunity for the local economies to protect, sustain and grow jobs and income, provide additional job opportunities and income, while also providing additional competitive residential opportunities.

This development also positively contributes to the outcomes sought in the NPS UD⁹ by providing additional housing capacity across a range of typologies and providing more choice in the market in relation to price points and location.

It is important to note that these benefits exist within a timeframe that is likely to see significant uncertainty in development opportunities and a lower appetite for risk, impacting on both the construction and productive base of the localised and regional economies.

⁹ National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020