

**Hon David Parker** BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



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Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations; Te Arawhiti; Housing; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Land Information; Defence; Transport; Conservation; Climate Change; and Emergency Management

Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on application for referral – Otawere Water Storage Reservoir, Northland**

I have received an application from Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust to refer the Otawere Water Storage Reservoir project to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA.

The aim of the FTCA is to urgently promote employment to support New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, and meet Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

The proposed project is described in the enclosed schedule, and a copy of the application is electronically attached.

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application under section 21(2) of the FTCA. I note that if this project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to lodge applications for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 for the project with the Environmental Protection Authority. A more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment will be required as part of these applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the expert consenting panel.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish me to take them into consideration when making a decision on whether or not to accept the application and refer the project to a panel.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

Enclosures:

- A. Schedule of proposed project
- B. Application to refer Otaware Water Storage Reservoir to an expert consenting panel including supporting information

Released under the provision of  
the Official Information Act 1982

## Appendix A - Schedule of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Otawere Water Storage Reservoir	Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust	To construct and operate the Otawere Water Storage Reservoir (and associated dams) with storage capacity of approximately 4 million cubic metres in the upper catchment of an unnamed tributary of the Waitangi River; to take water from catchment inflows to fill the reservoir and to take water from the reservoir for horticultural uses and municipal water supply.

Released under the provision of  
the Official Information Act 1982