



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 9) 2021

Portfolio Environment

On 30 August 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment has decided, under section 24 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act), to accept the applications for referral of the following projects to a panel:
  - 1.1 Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust's Otawere Water Storage Reservoir project;;
  - 1.2 KiwiRail Holdings Limited's Drury Central and Paerata Stations project
- 2 **noted** that Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust's Otawere Water Storage Reservoir project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18 of the Act, and is considered to help achieve the Act's purpose by having the potential to:
  - 2.1 have positive effects on social well-being by providing increased opportunities for employment;
  - 2.2 generate employment by providing up to 31 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs during construction;
  - 2.3 result in a public benefit by contributing to a municipal water supply and water supply for civil defence and other emergency purposes;
  - 2.4 progress faster by using the processes provided by the Act than would otherwise be the case, provided that the applicants lodge their applications for resource consent with the Environmental Protection Authority in a timely manner following referral;
- 3 **noted** that KiwiRail Holdings Limited's Drury Central and Paerata Stations project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18 of the Act and is considered to help achieve the purpose of the Act by having the potential to:
  - 3.1 have positive effects on the social wellbeing of current and future generations by providing improved access to rail services, reducing road safety risks and saving travel time;
  - 3.2 generate employment by providing 27-40 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in 2021 in the planning, engineering, and design phase, and 200-332 FTE jobs in construction and construction management between 2021 and 2024;

- 3.3 provide infrastructure to improve economic, employment, and environmental outcomes and increase productivity by reducing congestion and supporting growth in the southern growth area of Auckland as identified in the Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in Part and associated structure plans;
- 3.4 contribute to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low-emissions economy by reducing reliance on cars;
- 4 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 9) 2021 requires Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust to provide to an expert consenting panel: further information regarding the project's benefits for Māori; consistency with the NPS-FM; and potential for adverse effects on wetlands, habitat loss, terrestrial biodiversity, landscape and indigenous fauna, as detailed in Appendix three to the submission under CAB-21-SUB-0340;
- 5 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 9) 2021 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust's Otawere Water Storage project to seek comments from parties nominated s 9(2)(f)(ii), s 9(2)(g)(i)
- 6 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 9) 2021 requires KiwiRail Holdings Limited to provide to a panel: an assessment of the historic heritage values of the sites, a clarification of iwi authorities and any other Māori groups representing tangata whenua views, methodology and assumptions used to estimate climate impacts/benefits and GHG emissions savings/reductions, an analysis of GHG emissions impacts over time, a preliminary site investigation report, and a flood-hazard assessment for the Drury Central site, as detailed in Appendix four;
- 7 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 9) 2021 requires a panel appointed to consider KiwiRail Holdings Limited's Drury Central and Paerata Stations project to seek comments from Watercare Services Limited, Auckland Transport, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, and Ngāti Koheriki Claims Committee, as listed in Appendix four;
- 8 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 9) 2021 [PCO 24011/6.0];
- 9 **noted** that on 27 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to waivers of the 28-day rule so that Orders in Council made under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 can come into force as soon as they are notified in the New Zealand Gazette [CAB-20-MIN-0353];
- 10 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 9) 2021 will come into force on 3 September 2021.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet