



2020-B-07335

18 December 2020

Te Pio Kawe  
Chairperson  
Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Ranginui Settlement Trust  
s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Te Pio Kawe

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Port of Tauranga Stella Passage Wharves and Dredging Project – Comments sought**

In the week commencing 9 November 2020, the Minister for the Environment and Minister of Conservation received an application to refer the above project to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

A copy of the application is attached, and a description of the project follows.

**Port of Tauranga Stella Passage Wharves and Dredging Project**

The project is for extension of the Sulphur Point and Mount Maunganui wharves, and to carry out the associated reclamation and dredging of the seabed.

The purpose of this project is to increase the Port's capacity to manage growth in cargo volumes and vessel sizes without changing its overall footprint. The applicant states this will ensure the Port can continue to meet New Zealand's demand for export and import cargo volumes.

The Sulphur Point wharf, on the west side of the channel, will be extended by approximately 385 metres and will require 1.8 hectares reclamation. The Mount Maunganui wharf, on the east side, will be extended by approximately 920 metres and will require 2.9 hectares reclamation.

The seabed in the shipping channel between the wharves will be dredged to accommodate the increase in shipping that will be enabled by the wharf extensions. The area covers 14.4 hectares and involves up to 1,800,000 cubic metres of dredged material, of which 5.9 hectares and 800,000 cubic metres is already consented.

You have been identified as a party who may have an interest in this project. On behalf of myself and the Minister of Conservation we invite you to provide written comments on the proposed project pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA. A template is attached for this purpose.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days so that we can take them into consideration when deciding on the application.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or to discuss this application, please contact our team at [fastrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fastrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) and they will make themselves available for a discussion with you.

Also note that if we decide to refer the project to a panel there will be an opportunity for iwi authorities to nominate a representative to sit on this panel. At this stage, the applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects along with their applications for the consents and approvals needed for the project, and you will have the opportunity to provide further comments to a panel.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer Port of Tauranga Stella Passage Wharves and Dredging Project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information.
- B. Response template for written comments.