



MFE 2021-B-07905

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14 May 2021

Malcolm Nicolson
Chief Executive Officer
Northland Regional Council
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Malcolm Nicolson

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Rangitane Maritime Development – Comments sought

In the week commencing 5 April 2021, Far North District Council and Far North Holdings Limited applied to refer the Rangitane Maritime Development project (the Project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). As the Project includes parts of the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), the Acting Minister of Conservation and I will jointly decide on the referral application.

The Project is described as follows, and a copy of the application is attached.

The Project is to construct a new public boat ramp facility via the reclamation of approximately 7,400 square metres of land within the CMA. The new facility will upgrade existing access and capacity at the site for (primarily) recreational users, and will comprise a double width boat ramp and central floating pontoon, sealed parking area, dinghy storage area, public walkway, picnic facilities and landscaping.

The Project site is located adjacent to Rangitane Loop Road, Kerikeri, and within the Rangitane Loop Road legal road reserve.

The Project will involve activities such as the following:

- a. vegetation clearance, including removal of mangroves in the CMA
- b. earthworks on land
- c. drainage and reclamation of parts of the foreshore and seabed
- d. excavation/dredging of the foreshore and seabed
- e. deposition of fill on the foreshore and seabed
- f. construction of structures in the CMA
- g. discharge of stormwater to the CMA

- h. construction of parking, walkway and picnic facilities, and landscaping.

The applicants are seeking land use consents and coastal permits under the Operative Far North District Plan, the Operative Regional Coastal Plan for Northland and the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland, to be determined for the Project through the fast-track process.

On behalf of myself and the Acting Minister of Conservation, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA (a template is attached for this purpose). Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and on any other matter you consider relevant to our decision on whether to refer the Project to a panel. If it is more efficient to discuss this application, please contact our team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

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. Do the applicants, or a company owned by the applicants, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your region?
4. Do you foresee any significant concerns or barriers with respect to navigational safety (maritime safety management/harbourmaster concerns)?
5. Please provide details of local iwi and hapu that you consider may have an interest in this Project.

Also note that if we decide to refer the Project to a panel, you 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 resource consent application(s) for the Project. Applicants will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects at this next stage and you 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 your comments via return email within 10 working days so that we can take them into consideration when deciding 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. Application to refer the Rangitane Maritime Development project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information
- B. Response template for written comments

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