

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:

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

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures Project

The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited has applied to refer the Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures Project (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 purpose 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.

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1. As the project lies in the Coastal Marine Area, the Minister of Conservation (Hon Willow-Jean Prime) and I will jointly decide whether or not to accept the application.

Minister Prime and I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If we accept the application and the project is referred, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the project, and a panel will be appointed to consider and decide them. The applicant must provide a more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of their RMA applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panel.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish us to take them into consideration when making our decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', with a large loop at the end.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

A. Description of proposed project

Attachment:

1. Application to refer Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Appendix A - Proposed project details

Project	Applicant	Details
Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures	The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited	The project is to install aquaculture structures and conduct trials involving fish in Tasman Bay approximately 6 kilometres to the west of Sauvage Point, D'Urville Island covering an area of approximately 3.6 hectares, located within the boundary of a consented 450-hectare marine farm. The project will occur wholly in the coastal marine area (CMA). The trials have four phases. Phase 1, involving physical trials of fish enclosures only (i.e., without live fish) is consented and underway in different locations within the coastal waters of Nelson City. This project involves Phases 2 to 4 that will test the physical suitability of the enclosures in an exposed environment with fish present.

