



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Aquaculture Trials and Whenuapai Development) Amendment Order 2023

Portfolio **Environment, Conservation**

On 26 June 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment and Minister of Conservation have decided under section 24 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 to accept the applications for referral of the following projects to a panel:
 - 1.1 the New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited's Aquaculture Trials;
 - 1.2 Cabra Developments Limited's Whenuapai Development;
- 2 **noted** that the Aquaculture Trials project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and is considered to help achieve the Act's purpose, as required by section 18(2) of the Act, as it has the potential to:
 - 2.1 provide approximately 42 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over a 5-year period and support retention of 60 existing FTE jobs;
 - 2.2 contribute to aquaculture that is resilient to the effects of climate change;
 - 2.3 progress faster using the Act's processes than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes;
- 3 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Aquaculture Trials and Whenuapai Development) Amendment Order 2023 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider the New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited's Aquaculture Trials project to seek comments from the following additional parties:
 - 3.1 Minister for Oceans and Fisheries;
 - 3.2 Marlborough Harbourmaster;
 - 3.3 Fisheries New Zealand;
 - 3.4 Biosecurity New Zealand;
 - 3.5 Wakatū Incorporation;

- 3.6 Te Tau Ihu Fisheries Forum;
- 3.7 Ngāti Toa Rangatira ki Wairau Trust;
- 4 **noted** that the Whenuapai Development project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and is considered to help achieve the Act's purpose, as required by section 18(2) of the Act, as it has the potential to:
- 4.1 provide approximately 154 full-time equivalent jobs over a 4-year design and construction period and enable approximately 126 ongoing full-time equivalent jobs through ongoing operation of industrial activities;
 - 4.2 increase housing supply through construction of approximately 227 residential units;
 - 4.3 have positive effects on social well-being by contributing to public amenity and opportunities for recreation;
 - 4.4 progress faster using the Act's processes than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes;
- 5 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Aquaculture Trials and Whenuapai Development) Amendment Order 2023 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider Cabra Developments Limited's Whenuapai Development project to seek comments from the 14 parties listed in Appendix three, attached to the submission under CAB-23-SUB-0273;
- 6 **authorised** submission to the Executive Council of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Aquaculture Trials and Whenuapai Development) Amendment Order 2023 [PCO 25640/6.0];
- 7 **noted** that on 27 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to waive the standard 28-day rule relating to Orders in Council made under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 [CAB-20-MIN-0353];
- 8 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Aquaculture Trials and Whenuapai Development) Amendment Order 2023 will come into force on the date specified in the Amendment Order.

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet