

**Hon David Parker** BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



BRF-140

15 June 2021

Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Land Information; Defence; Transport; Conservation; Associate Environment (Urban Development); and Climate Change

Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on application for referral – Riverbend Residential Development**

I have received an application to refer a 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 aim 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 and meet Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

The project is described in the enclosed schedule, and a copy of the application is electronically attached.

I invite you under section 21(2) of the FTCA to provide written comments on the referral application. I note that if this project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. A more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessments will be required as part of these 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 me to take them into consideration when making a decision on whether or not to accept the application and refer the project to a panel.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', is positioned above the typed name.

Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

Enclosures:

- A. Schedule of proposed project
- B. Application to refer Riverbend Residential Development to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information

Released under the provision of  
the Official Information Act 1982

## Appendix A - Schedule of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Riverbend Residential Development	Tawanui Developments Limited	The Project is to undertake subdivision and development of associated roading and servicing infrastructure to create up to 606 residential lots, to construct 380 residential units, and provide for the future development of a further 290 residential units on the balance lots. The application may include an expansion to the existing Maraenui Park but this has not been confirmed with the Napier City Council.