

22 November 2022

Fraser McNutt
Barker & Associates
s 9(2)(a)

SUBJECT: HOUNSELL HOLDINGS LIMITED FASTTRACK REQUEST

Kia ora Fraser,

Thank for your letter confirming that Hounsell Holdings Limited (HHL) is planning to lodge a request with the Ministry for the Environment to have the Project fast-tracked under the COVID-19 Recovery Fast-Track Consenting Act 2020.

Your letter requests Hamilton City Council (HCC) to confirm:

- (a) That HCC supports the application using the fast-track process; and*
- (b) HCC agrees that the RGC and the RAR are 'specified infrastructure' under the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management ("NPSFM").*
- (c) HCC confirms that HHL has been contracted on behalf of HCC to project manage the design and obtain resource consents for the RGC, RAR and supplementary water services infrastructure. While an agreement regarding construction of those assets has not yet been reached – all of the assets have to be designed to a specification that will enable HCC to either construct the Project itself or accept the assets being vested in HCC having been constructed by a third party (or a combination thereof). As a result the assets arising from construction of the Project will be owned and operated by HCC. HB: this confirmation is solely for the purpose of confirming that the consent applications are seeking authorisation to construct infrastructure which will ultimately be owned and operated by a 'local authority' for the purposes of the NPSFM definitions.*

In relation to the above, subject to HHL complying with its contract with HCC and specifically to be consistent with the HCC RGC designation and the RAR Notice of Requirement (yet to be lodged), HCC confirms that it:

- supports the proposed approach to use the fast-track process for the Project as outlined in your letter. HCC acknowledges that all of the infrastructure in relation with the Project is expected to be vested in and operated by HCC, subject to a robust process and assessment of the application and the normal quality control processes of HCC with respect to vesting assets.
- supports HHLs view that RGC and RAR in their entirety should be considered 'specified infrastructure' under the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management.
- supports point c, and confirms HCC has a contract with HHL to project manage the design and obtain resource consent for the RGC, RAR and supplementary water services infrastructure.

HCC notes that for works within a designation (or a NOR has been lodged) further written approval in accordance with s176 (RMA) will be required from HCC as the requiring authority

As you are aware, HCC performs multiple statutory roles and functions. Nothing above should be construed as fettering the regulatory functions and responsibilities of HCC.

HCC looks forward to providing formal comments on the proposal following the Ministers consideration of the request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BEBA'.

Blair Bowcott
General Manager - Growth