

27 March 2023

Ministry for the Environment
Environment House
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Pipitea
Wellington 6011

For: Max Gander-Cooper
Senior Policy Analyst | Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua
Fast-track Consenting Team

s 9(2)(a)

Kia ora Max

PROPOSED FAST-TRACK CONSENT – ROTOKAURI INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICING

1. I am advised that you are managing the referral application in relation to the Rotokauri Greenway and Minor Arterial Project (**Project**) under s 20 of the COVID -19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (**Act**) which was lodged with the Ministry on 27 January 2023.
2. The Project is a collaboration between Hounsell Holdings Limited (**Hounsell**) and Hamilton City Council (**HCC**) in its capacity as a requiring authority under s 166 of the RMA.
3. Hounsell is a substantial landowner within the Rotokauri Structure Plan Area, which is a significant greenfield growth cell in the north-west of Hamilton City. HCC's partnering with Hounsell is critical to unlocking a number of complex infrastructure related issues which require addressing so that urbanization can progress in this area.
4. The components of the Project are an important part of the long term growth strategy for Hamilton. They are well documented public infrastructure projects that have been identified and planned for through initiatives such as *Future Proof: Te Tau Titoki*, the Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy, and HCC's Long Term Plan.
5. I confirm that alongside Hounsell, HCC is a joint applicant for the Project to be referred to an expert consenting panel under s 20 of the Act.
6. In providing this confirmation I wish to ensure that the Minister understands where the fast-track consenting process sits in the context of the various obligations and statutory responsibilities that the Council has as a requiring authority.
7. In its capacity as requiring authority HCC has secured the designation for the Rotokauri Greenway Corridor (**Greenway**), as shown in the Hamilton City Operative District Plan. The arterial and collector road (**Arterials**) have not yet been designated, although that designation process is scheduled to be commenced by HCC as requiring authority in the next few months. I anticipate that securing the designation for the Arterials will be at least 12 months away. The Greenway designation protects the

corridor from unintended land uses occurring prior to the Project commencing, and lays the foundation for any land acquisition discussions where necessary.

8. It is important to understand that even with the designations in place, multiple resource consents for the delivery of the Project are necessary, and securing those consents outside of the fast-track process could give rise to very significant delays to the Project.
9. HCC seeks to avoid these delays given that it is working hard to ensure it plays a leadership role in delivering housing supply to the market. HCC considers that the Project will not only assist in achieving this objective, but will also serve the core purpose of the Act as set out in s 19.
10. I trust that this letter addresses your queries and provides a more complete explanation of our interest in the project.

Kind regards,



Chris Allen

**General Manager
Development Group**

Council Building
Garden Place, Hamilton

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Website www.hamilton.govt.nz