

BRF-2936

Chris McLay
Chief Executive Officer
Waikato Regional Council
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Chris McLay

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Rotokauri Greenway and Minor Arterial Project

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from Hounsell Holdings Limited and Hamilton City Council to refer the Rotokauri Greenway and Minor Arterial Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA, I invite Waikato Regional Council to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2. Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and on any other matter you consider relevant to the Minister's decision on whether or not to accept the application.

Specific questions on the application
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Are there any reasons that you consider it more appropriate for the project, or part of the project, to proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the FTCA?2. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your region?

The above information is provided to you in confidence and as part of the statutory process set out in the FTCA. Please do not forward the application or request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

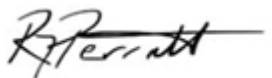
If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred to a panel, Waikato Regional Council will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine the RMA approvals for the project. The applicants will provide a detailed assessment of environmental

effects and cultural impact assessments at this stage and the council will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when making his decision. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If it is more efficient for you to discuss the application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Perrett
Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team

Appendix:

- A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Rotokauri Greenway and Minor Arterial Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link)
2. Response template for written comments

cc: Amy Robinson, Regional Consents Manager, s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Details of proposed project

Project	Applicants	Details
Rotokauri Greenway and Minor Arterial	Hounsell Holdings Limited and Hamilton City Council	<p>The project is to construct certain aspects of a 4.7-kilometre stormwater management corridor ('Rotokauri Greenway') between Lake Waiwhakareke and Lake Rotokauri, and a 3.8-kilometre transport corridor ('Minor Arterial') between Te Wetini Drive and 153 Te Kowhai Road, Rotokauri, Hamilton. The project includes constructing artificial wetlands, landscaping and planting, upgrading the Rotokauri Drain and culvert below Exelby Road, and constructing three-waters infrastructure including a watermain, wastewater pipeline and pump station.</p> <p>The project will include activities such as vegetation clearance, carrying out earthworks including disturbing contaminated soils, constructing artificial wetlands, constructing and upgrading roads constructing three waters infrastructure, taking, damming, diverting and discharging surface and groundwater, and installing culverts in a watercourse.</p>