

BRF-2936

Gavin Ion
Chief Executive Officer
Waikato District Council
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Gavin Ion

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 Holding Limited and Hamilton City Council to refer the Rotokauri Greenway and Minor Arterial Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The purpose of the FTCA is to 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.

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

Waikato District Council may have an interest in the project because it will occur over land which has easements in favour of Waikato District Council. Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite Waikato District Council to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2.

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, the applicants will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicants must provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of this process.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the referral application. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Perrett', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

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 in covering email)
2. Response template for written comments

Appendix A - Proposed project

Project	Applicants	Details
Rotokauri Greenway and Minor Arterial Project	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>