

**Hon David Parker** BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



BRF-426

23 August 2021

Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Land Information; Trade and Export Growth; Defence; Transport; Conservation; and Climate Change.

Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 - comments sought on application for referral - Silverlight Studios Accommodation**

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 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 form and site plan 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 assessment 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 the Silverlight Studios Accommodation project 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
Silverlight Studios Accommodation	Silverlight Studios Limited	<p>The Silverlight Studios Accommodation project is located at 707 Wanaka - Luggate Highway (State Highway 6), approximately 7km to the east of Wanaka township.</p> <p>The Project is to develop and operate approximately 300 residential units (apartments) to be used for cast and crew, and for visitor accommodation when not required for studio use, as part of the Silverlight Studios project.</p> <p>Note: I decided to refer the Silverlight Studios project for a film studio complex at the same site on 14 December 2020. The scope of that project did not include any on-site residential or visitor accommodation as the applicant considered it could be provided elsewhere in the local area. The Silverlight Studios project is now included as Schedule 10 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Order 2020 and the applicant lodged consent applications for the Silverlight Studio project with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 27 July 2021.</p> <p>This application seeks to include residential and visitor accommodation in this project. I note that some of the information provided with this application, including detailed building plans, relates to the Silverlight Studios project which has already been referred under the FTCA and is not directly relevant to this project.</p>

Released under the Official Information Act 1982