



2020-B-07255

11 November 2020

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for Trade and Export Growth
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Damien

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on application for referral

This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act).

The aim of the Act is to urgently promote employment to support Aotearoa'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 proposed project is described in the enclosed schedule, and a copy of the application is electronically attached.

I invite you to provide written comments on the proposed project under section 21(2) of the Act. I note that if this project is referred to an expert consenting panel for determination, the applicant will then be required to lodge a more detailed application including an environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment with the Environmental Protection Authority. You will have a further opportunity at that stage to provide comments on the application to the expert consenting 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 to refer the application to an expert consenting 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 Silverlight Studios 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	Silverlight Studios Ltd	<p>To construct and operate a film studio, film school, movie theatre, and tourism attraction in Wanaka, Otago.</p> <p>This development will be separated into 7 areas centred around an artificial lake (previously consented). These areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a studio complex consisting of 5 buildings surrounded by a high wall. This area will provide sound stages, a workshop and supporting facilities, • five building clusters themed to look like iconic filming locations around the world (Italian village, Venice, Paris, New York, Nantucket). These building clusters will be used as film sets as well as provide production offices, a movie theatre, a film school, tourism attractions and supporting facilities. • a small-scale replica of Central Park for filming and tourism purposes. <p>The project also includes the construction and operation of the supporting transport, three waters and utilities infrastructure.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to meet a demand for dedicated film studios, large film sets, and supporting production facilities in New Zealand.</p>

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