



BRF-3096

Southern Parallel Sports Campus Limited  
c/- Jo Appleyard / Lucy Forrester  
Partner/Senior Solicitor  
Chapman Tripp  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jo Appleyard and Lucy Forrester

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Notice of Decision (Section 25)  
– Southern Parallel Sports Campus Project**

Thank you for Southern Parallel Sports Campus Limited's application under section 20 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA) seeking referral of the Southern Parallel Sports Campus Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the FTCA.

The project is to develop approximately 65 hectares of land at 279 Stranges Road, Ashburton, located adjacent to Lake Hood, to construct and operate a sports facility and an equestrian facility. The sports facility will include two buildings for indoor sports and support services, a cricket pavilion and a tennis pavilion, a boat shed and greenhouses, and outdoor courts, fields and an athletics track. The sports facility also includes 32 residential units, 30 of which are to provide accommodation for visitors to the facility. The sports facility is designed to cater for returned New Zealand and international coalition forces service people, high performance athletes and para-athletes, with public access to sports fields. The multi-discipline equestrian facility will include an indoor equestrian arena, a show jumping arena, indoor stables, polo fields and support services including an equine veterinary clinic. The indoor equestrian arena will also be available for non-equestrian events.

The project includes commercial activities such as motel-style visitors accommodation, a café and restaurant to support the sports and equestrian facilities, maintenance facilities, landscaping and waterway enhancement, and the construction of supporting infrastructure including parking areas and three-waters services. The project also includes works within the Stranges Road and Huntingdon Avenue road reserves to upgrade site access.

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 the certainty of ongoing investment across New Zealand, while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

I can only refer a project to a panel for consideration under the FTCA if it meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA, which includes me being satisfied the project will help achieve the FTCA's purpose. I can also decline to refer a project for any reason, under s 23(2) of the FTCA.

I have decided the project may not meet the purpose of the FTCA and that it would be more appropriate for the project to go through standard consenting processes under the Resource Management Act 1991. I have also decided there is insufficient time for the project to be referred and considered before the FTCA is repealed.

Accordingly, I have decided to decline your application for referral under sections 23(1), 23(2), 23(5)(b) and 23(5)(g) of the FTCA.

The decision to decline to refer the application to a Fast-track panel is neither a criticism nor an endorsement of the project.

The FTCA requires that:

1. I provide a copy of this decision to the persons, entities and groups specified in section 25(1) of the FTCA
2. My decision, the reasons for my decision and the Section 17 Report will be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website in accordance with section 25(3) of the FTCA.

Please contact the Fast-track Consenting Team at the Ministry for the Environment (fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) if you have any questions or wish to discuss this decision.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

cc Ministers of/for:

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

Additional relevant Ministers

Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Minister for Agriculture

Local authorities:

Ashburton District Council  
Environment Canterbury Regional Council