

Tēnā koe

I am writing to you again to provide further information about the progress of the new Innovative Courthouse for Tauranga.

The Ministry of Justice is currently investigating the suitability of an alternative site located between Monmouth St and McLean St. We will be making a recommendation to the Government whether to proceed with the new site or redevelop the existing courthouse site. We expect a decision will be made by the Government in August.

The Ministry has been exploring two options for obtaining the necessary consents for the new site, either follow the resource consent process, or undertake the Notice of Requirement for Designation (NOR) process. Based on the advice received we have decided to follow the NOR consenting option.

Please note that the decision to progress with this consenting strategy does not mean that either site has been selected. The decision to choose the new site, or stay with the existing courthouse site, will be made by the Government later this year.

The Tauranga City Council has advised us that the NOR application may be able to be considered under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.

The reason I am writing to you again is to let you know that the Ministry has recently lodged an application to the Minister of Environment for our future NOR application for the new site to be referred to an "Expert Consenting Panel" under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.

This referral application is not part of the formal NOR application process. There is also no set timeframe for the referral process, however, we have been told that it could take up to three months.

While the referral process is being completed, the Ministry will begin preparing the NOR application. If the Minister of Environment declines the application, and subject to the Government's decision on the development site, we will lodge the NOR

application with Tauranga City Council instead, and it will follow the standard Resource Management Act (RMA) process.

Regardless, whether the NOR application is processed through the COVID-19 Fast-track process, or a standard RMA process, prior to lodging the NOR we will provide an opportunity for formal consultation with our neighbours, including property owners and occupiers.

Your feedback will be incorporated into the NOR application. I will be in touch soon with information about this formal consultation process.

I would like to thank those neighbours who have met with us informally to understand more about the project and to share with us your thoughts and concerns.

I understand that consenting processes are complicated so please contact me if you have any questions about the planning processes, or the project.

Ngā mihi

Erana Brewerton