

BRF-226

28 June 2021

Marty Grenfell
Chief Executive
Tauranga City Council
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Marty Grenfell

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Ministry of Justice Innovative Courthouse – Tauranga – Comments sought

In the week commencing Monday 7 June 2021, the Minister of Justice (c/- The Property Group Limited) applied to the Minister for the Environment (the Minister) to refer the [Ministry of Justice Innovative Courthouse – Tauranga project (the Project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The Project is described below, and a link to all application documents is provided in the covering email.

The Project is for a designation to construct and operate a new Innovative Courthouse at 27 and 33 McLean Street, and 24, 28, 30 and 32 Monmouth Street, Tauranga.

The Project staging (outside the scope of the fast-tracking process) will involve purchasing the land, undertaking detailed design, submitting outline plan, obtaining relevant building consents and resource consents (if required under any regional rules or national environmental standards), commencing physical site works in approximately September 2022 and completing construction by approximately October 2025.

The applicant is seeking a designation, to be determined for the Project through the fast-track process.

Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is attached for this purpose. Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table on the next page, and on any other matter you consider relevant to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the Project to a panel.

If it is more efficient to discuss this application, please contact me or my team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

Specific questions on the application

1. Are there any reasons that you consider it more appropriate for the project, or part of the Project, to proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the FTCA?
2. What reports and assessments would normally be required by the council for a project of this nature in this area?
3. Does the applicant have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your city?

Also note that if the Minister decides to refer the Project to a panel, the council will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine notice of requirement for the project. The applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects at this stage and the council will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel. The Ministry for the Environment has prepared guidance on local authority involvement with fast-track consenting projects which you can access on the Ministry for the Environment website.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister will take your comments into consideration when deciding on the referral application. Please note that the Minister is not required to consider comments provided after this time, although he can still choose to do so.

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Frame
Manager, Fast-Track Consenting Team

Enclosures:

A. Response template for written comments

cc: Daniel Smith, Environmental Planning Manager
Tauranga City Council - s 9(2)(a)

Andrew Mead, Manager, City & Infrastructure Planning
Tauranga City Council - s 9(2)(a)