



13 September 2022

Te Rimu Trust
c/- Hayley Jones
Environmental Consultant
Tonkin & Taylor Limited
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Hayley Jones

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Te Araroa Barge Facility – Request for further information

Thank you for Te Rimu Trust's application to refer the Te Araroa Barge Facility project to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

As the project includes parts of the Coastal Marine Area, the Minister of Conservation (Hon Poto Williams) and I will jointly decide on the application. We request the following further information under section 22 of the FTCA:

1. Project scope

The application states that "a walkway/cycleway is planned to connect the facility to the settlement of Te Araroa". Please confirm whether this is intended to be included within the scope of the project. If so, whether the description of the project location will need to be amended to include this walkway/cycleway

2. Project benefits

The application states the project is expected to remove the need for, and as a result reduce, the number of logging trucks on public roads. Please comment on whether this will result in any direct job losses to the region in the logging sector, as well as any indirect jobs supporting the logging sector (i.e. mechanical servicing/repairs). Please provide net job creation figures (numbers of new jobs created minus numbers of job losses in the logging sector)

3. Potential for adverse environmental effects (section 19(d)(v) & (e))

The application states the project will result in potentially more than minor adverse effects on outstanding natural landscape, wetland environments and habitats for threatened or at risk species. The application considers these adverse effects can be offset, but provides no detail on whether offsetting is an appropriate method to account for such adverse effects on

coastal wetlands, dunelands and habitats for threatened species, and does not provide sufficient detail to give confidence that the effects of the project can be adequately offset.

Please provide:

- an assessment of whether the adverse effects of the project on ecological values and landscape values will be significant
- examples of successful offsetting of adverse effects on landscape values, in a New Zealand context.

4. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (section 23(5)(c))

The application includes an assessment of the project against the objectives and policies of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS). As the ecological assessment provided with the application identifies that threatened and at-risk indigenous species (including Australasian Bittern) may be present within the project site, we consider that an assessment against Policy 11 of the NZCPS is relevant to the project. We note that in order to achieve protection of biodiversity in the coastal environment, Policy 11 requires the avoidance of adverse effects on a range of significant values, a number of which will be present within and adjacent to the project site. Policy 11(b) also requires avoidance of significant adverse effects on a range of values and features including coastal wetlands and duneland habitats.

Please provide:

- an assessment of the project against Policy 11 of the NZCPS, that identifies the values of the project site upon which the avoidance of adverse effects is required and how avoidance of effects can be achieved
- associated with information sought above, detail on how avoidance of adverse effects on outstanding natural landscapes can be achieved with reference to Policy 15 of the NZCPS.

5. Section 104D of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

Clause 32 of Schedule 6 of the FTCA states that “Sections 104A to 104D, 105 to 107, and 138A(1), (2), (5), and (6) of the Resource Management Act 1991 apply to a panel’s consideration of a consent application for a referred project”. Given the potential for more than minor adverse environmental effects arising from the project, please provide a brief assessment of how you expect the project to pass the ‘gateway tests’ in RMA section 104D.

Please provide the required information via return email within 10 working days so that we can take it into account in deciding whether or not to accept the referral application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment