

Jacob Paget

To: Brad Coombs
Subject: RE: Request for further information - fast track referral application barge facility

From: Brad Coombs s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 30 September 2022 10:24 am
To: Hayley Jones s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Request for further information - fast track referral application barge facility

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

The entire coastal area of Hicks Bay, Haupara Point and Kawakawa Bay has been identified as an outstanding natural feature or landscape. The landscape area identified is a relatively consistent offset from the coastal edge in a landward direction. The inland boundary does not follow any consistent landscape feature, but appears to follow the SH35 corridor for the Kawakawa Bay section of the ONFL. Within this area there are landscape features that contribute positively to the outstanding landscape values of the area, including the Karakatuwhero and Awatere Rivers, the coast line and waters, natural areas of coastal wetland, indigenous coastal vegetation and natural dune landforms. There are other areas of the wider ONL, such as the areas that have been mined for gravel extraction or where weeds species have become established. The Kahui Kupenga Marine Access Facility proposal has been carefully located and designed to largely avoid the positive values and attributes of the Kawakawa Bay landscape and to be focused in the areas where landscape values are already degraded (where gravel extraction, weed infestation, etc has taken place). This provides the opportunity for landscape and natural character values to be improved on balance by the proposal.

By avoiding areas of higher landscape values, the effects of the proposal on the outstanding landscape values of the Kawakawa Bay area will be limited. Significant adverse effects will not result from the proposal for these reasons.

Landscape mitigation and offsetting proposals have been used in a number of large-scale infrastructure proposals in New Zealand. The Mount Messenger roading project resulted in the purchase and gifting of a parcel of indigenous bush covered land to off-set the unavoidable routing of part of the road through an existing area of indigenous bush. The Tauhara Geothermal Power Station project, consented by a Board of Inquiry in 2010 required the planting of areas of land around the wider working rural landscape in both functional exotic rural planting (shelter belts) and indigenous plants in order to both mitigation and offset the landscape effects of the project. The recently consented (under the COVID 19 Fast Track Consenting Legislation) Tauhei solar farm in West Te Aroha requires the restoration of a 6.9ha wetland and 4.8ha of riparian areas and establishing boundary planting and biodiversity corridors over an area of 14.9ha. Similar broader landscape values improvement opportunities are available at Kawakawa Bay across areas of land that are under the control of the Te Rimu Trust.

4.

Please provide:

- 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

As set out in response to 3, above, the harbour proposal location and design largely avoids the outstanding landscape values of Kawakawa Bay and will not have significant adverse effects, ensuring consistency with Policies 15a) and 15b) of the NZPS. In relation to 15b) the site presents broad opportunities for the mitigation and remedy of any residual adverse effects of the proposal. A more detailed landscape and natural character assessment to accompany the application will ensure assessment and compliance with the more specific and detailed aspects of Policy 15c) of the NZCPS.

Ngā mihi nui,

BRAD COOMBS

Principal

FNZILA (Registered)

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Brad Coombs

Principal

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