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Ministers of/for:

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

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Te Araroa Barge Facility Project

Te Rimu Trust has applied to refer the Te Araroa Barge Facility Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA.

The purpose of the FTCA is to urgently promote employment to support New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1. As the project includes parts of the Coastal Marine Area, the Minister of Conservation (Hon Poto Williams) and I will jointly decide whether or not to accept the application.

Minister Williams and I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If we accept the application and the project is referred, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the project, and a panel will be appointed to consider and decide them. The applicant must provide a more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of their RMA applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panel.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish us to take them into consideration when making our decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

A. Description of proposed project

Attachment:

1. Application to refer Te Araroa Barge Facility Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Attachment A - Proposed project details

Project	Applicant	Details
Te Araroa Barge Facility	Te Rimu Trust	<p>The project is to construct and operate a barge facility at Te Araroa Road, Te Araroa, Gisborne for the primary purpose of facilitating transport of logs from the local forestry industry. The facility will include an excavated mooring basin, facilities for public recreation including water sports, a dredged access channel, two breakwaters (sea walls), boat ramp, boat moorings, rescue centre building, harbour control building, public toilet, and parking and hardstand areas.</p> <p>The project involves activities such as construction and operation of breakwaters, reclamation of and dredging in the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), construction of access roads, construction and operation of a public carpark and public amenity and ancillary buildings, construction and operation of a boat ramp, discharge of stormwater and contaminants to the CMA, earthworks and vegetation clearance in a natural wetland.</p>