



10 November 2022

MFE BRF-2174

DOC 22-B-0678

Nedine Thatcher Swann
Chief Executive
Gisborne District Council
Email: ceo@gdc.govt.nz

Dear Nedine Thatcher Swann

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 project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1. As the project is partly within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), the Minister of Conservation (Hon Poto Williams) and I will jointly decide on the application.

Minister Williams and I invite Gisborne District Council to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2. Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and on any other matter you consider relevant to our decision on whether or not to accept the application.

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, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your region?

The above information is provided to you in confidence and as part of the statutory process set out in the FTCA. Please do not forward the application or the request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

If we decide to accept the application and the project is referred 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 the RMA approvals needed for the project. The applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessments 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 comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish us to take them into consideration when making our decision.

If you wish to discuss this application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

- A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Te Araroa Barge Facility Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Response template for written comments

cc: Helen Montgomery, Direct Environmental Services and Protection,
s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A - Proposed project

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>