

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



MFE BRF-2174
DOC 22-B-0088

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 - Notice of Decision (Section 25)
– Te Araroa Barge Facility Project**

Thank you for Te Rimu Trust's application under section 20 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA) seeking referral of the Te Araroa Barge Facility project to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the FTCA. I am writing to you on behalf of both myself and Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Minister of Conservation, as the project is partly within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA).

The project is to construct and operate a barge facility at Te Araroa Road, Te Araroa, Gisborne near the mouth of the Karakatuwhero River 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, parking and hardstand areas and ecological enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

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

We can only refer a project to a panel for consideration under the FTCA if it meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA, which includes our being satisfied the project will help achieve the FTCA's purpose. We can also decline to refer a project for any reason, under section 23(2) of the FTCA.

We have considered whether the project meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA, and consider it meets part of the referral criteria in section 18 including some aspects of the FTCA's purpose because it will help to urgently promote employment.

Notwithstanding this, we have decided to decline your application for referral under section 23(2). We consider it would be more appropriate for the project to go through standard consenting processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) as there is a wide range of community interests in the project, including a Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 application which is currently before the High Court, and there is a fair expectation that there will be the opportunity for wider involvement in consenting decisions on the project.

We note there are other RMA processes, including a request for the application to go directly to the Environment Court under section 87D of the RMA, which could be an appropriate process for this project. It is also open to you to request that it be called in to the Environment Court or a Board of Inquiry under section 142 of the RMA.


This is not a criticism or endorsement of the merits of the project.

The FTCA requires that:

1. We provide a copy of this decision to the persons, entities and groups specified in section 25(1) of the FTCA
2. Our decision, the reasons for it, and the Section 17 Report will be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website in accordance with section 25(3) of the FTCA.

Please contact the Fast-track Consenting Team at the Ministry for the Environment (fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) if you have any questions or wish to discuss this decision.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

cc Ministers of/for:

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

Local authorities:

Gisborne District Council

Other parties:

Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency

Pōtikirua ki Whangaōkena Takutai Kaitiaki Trust