

BRF-2850

14 March 2023

Jim Stabback
Chief Executive Officer
Auckland Council
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jim Stabback

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – The North Project

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from 617 New North Limited to refer The North Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA, I invite Auckland 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 the Minister's 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. 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 request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred to a panel, Auckland 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 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.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when making his decision. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

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

Yours sincerely



Madeleine Berry
Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team

Appendix:

- A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer The North Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link)
2. Response template for written comments

cc: Ian Smallburn, General Manager Resource Consents,
s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Details of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
The North Project	617 New North Limited	The project is to construct a nine storey (29.3 metres high) mixed-use building at 617-619 New North Road, Kingsland, Auckland including approximately 44 residential units, 34 visitor accommodation units, commercial space and 2 basement levels. The project will include 27 carparks, bicycle and scooter parking, a rooftop communal space, and new vehicle and pedestrian access. The project will include activities such as relocating a 19th century building, trimming and removing vegetation (including street trees), demolishing existing buildings and structures, carrying out earthworks (including disturbing potentially contaminated soils), taking, diverting and discharging groundwater, constructing residential and commercial units, constructing and installing infrastructure, lighting and signage and subdividing land.