



24 SEP 2020

2020-B-07145

Mark Williams  
Chief Executive Officer  
Queenstown Trails Trust  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Mark Williams

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 - Notice of Decision (Section 25)  
– Tucker Beach to Arthur's Point to Arrowtown extension to the Queenstown Cycle Trail**

Thank you for your application to refer Tucker Beach to Arthur's Point to Arrowtown extension of the Queenstown Cycle Trail to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act).

The application is to construct and operate a cycle trail connecting Tucker Beach, Arrowtown and Arthur's Point, including access across the Shotover River.

Under sections 18 and 19 of the Act I have now considered: the application, a report on Treaty of Waitangi obligations, comments received from relevant local authorities and Ministers, and further information you provided.


I have made a decision, under section 23 of the Act, to **decline** your application for referral because the project does not meet the purpose of the Act by urgently creating employment and supporting investment certainty as:

1. The Arthur's Point to Tuckers Beach section of the trail is partly on public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and mountain biking is not currently permitted under the Otago Conservation Management Strategy in this location. A DOC concession to use this land for mountain biking cannot be granted at this time. This creates uncertainty regarding project timing and outcome and whether employment can be created urgently.
2. With respect to the Arthur's Point to Arrowtown section of the trail, based on the consents required, indicative landowner support and feedback received from Queenstown Lakes District Council and Otago Regional Council, I consider that the project would be likely to progress faster using the standard consenting processes under the Resource Management Act.

If the Otago Conservation Management Strategy is amended to include mountain biking through Arthur's Beach to Tucker's Point, please feel free to lodge a new application under the Act.

As required by the Act, my decision, the reasons for my decision and the section 17 report will be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website under section 25(3). Please contact officials at the Ministry for the Environment ([fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz)) if you have any questions or wish to discuss this decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

cc Ministers of/for:

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

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