

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



BRF-2849

Ministers of/for:

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

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Taheke Geothermal and Wairau Housing Development Project

I have received two applications to refer projects to an expert consenting panel (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 projects are described in Appendix A, and the application documents are in Attachment 1 and 2.

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

- A. Description of proposed projects

Attachment:

1. Application to refer Taheke Geothermal Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Application to refer Wairau Housing Development Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Appendix A - Proposed projects

Project	Applicants	Details
Taheke Geothermal Project	ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership	The project is to construct, operate and maintain a geothermal power station with an output of approximately 25 to 40 Megawatts net (18 kilometres north-east of Rotorua and 2 kilometres north-east of Okere Village). The project involves the take and reinjection/injection of approximately 10,000 tonnes of geothermal fluid per day from the Taheke geothermal field and will include installation of approximately ten production wells, construction of pipelines, underground and overhead transmission lines for supplying electricity to the national grid, and other ancillary infrastructure and structures. The project includes two options for the design of the geothermal power station, either a conventional geothermal steam turbine or an organic Rankine cycle plant. The project seeks to enable either option, with the final option being selected through detailed design.
Wairau Housing Development Project	Hāpai Development Property Limited Partnership	The project is to subdivide an approximately 4.5-hectare site located adjacent to Wairau Hospital on Hospital Road, Blenheim and construct approximately 105 residential units and supporting infrastructure including roads and reserves intended to vest with Marlborough District Council, accessways, car-parking areas and three-waters services. The site adjoins the Wairau hospital.

