



2020-B-07198

18 November 2020

Steph O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
Whakatāne District Council

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Steph O'Sullivan

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Whakatāne Commercial Boat Harbour Project – Comments sought

In the week commencing 21 September 2020, the Minister for the Environment and Minister of Conservation received an application to refer the above project to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act). The proposed project is located within the Whakatāne area.

The project is described as follows, and a copy of the application is attached:

Whakatāne Commercial Boat Harbour Project

The construction of internal boat harbour facilities and an access channel from the boat harbour to the Whakatāne River (partially located in the CMA where the channel meets the river), and the use of these facilities and access channel.

The project includes two alternatives for the vessel access channel. These are subject to confirmation of the design of the facility and the final consent application. The application includes concept plans of the two channels, with slightly different layouts of the internal elements of the boat harbour facility.

The boat harbour is expected to be completed in two stages. The first stage starting construction in early 2021 includes:

- Establishment of the boat harbour including its channel entrance and the first berths focused on the commercial industry (tourism, fishing and aquaculture).
- Construction of the Marine Technical Training Centre facility along with the commercial hardstand maintenance facility.
- Construction of a commercial chandlery.
- Flood protection works.
- Remediation of contamination from the site (historic timber mill timber peelings that were consented and placed during the 1980's).

Construction on the second stage is forecast to commence soon after the completion of the first stage in late 2022, including:

- Additional berthage.
- Recreational and community facilities (including car and boat trailer parking).

On behalf of myself and the Minister of Conservation, I invite you to provide written comments on the proposed project pursuant to section 21(2) of the Act (a template is attached for this purpose). Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and any further information you consider relevant to our decision on whether to refer the project to an expert consenting panel. If it is more efficient to discuss this application, officials from the Fast-track Consenting Team will be available for a discussion with you. Please contact them at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz.

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 standard Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the Act?
2. Comment on parties that Council may consider have an interest in the project.

Also note that if we decide to refer the project to a panel, you 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 application. Applicants will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects at this next stage and you 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 your comments via return email within 10 working days so that we can take your comments into consideration when deciding on the application.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer the Whakatāne Commercial Boat Harbour Project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information
- B. Response template for written comments

cc: David Bewley, General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Corporate Services
s 9(2)(a)