

21 December 2021

Hon David Parker  
Minister for the Environment  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160



By email

Tēna koe Minister Parker

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 - Whakatāne Boat Harbour**

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge the ongoing engagement between Ministry of the Environment (Ministry) officers and myself over the processing of the Fast Track application for the Whakatāne Boat Harbour filed with the Ministry in late September.

We understand that the Ministry received favourable support from those agencies that you sought comment from on our application in November.

In recent weeks we have undertaken further engagement with the Department of Conservation staff who have confirmed the intention to complete a collaborative approach to our requirement to seek departmental approval for the easement (or other mechanism) to cross the neighbouring DoC reserve.

With the Christmas break upon us, local DoC staff have confirmed they will have assembled a team to collaboratively work on our approvals starting the 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Accordingly, this letter confirms our intention to provide MfE officers with a timetable agreed between us and DoC staff with the intention that this joint statement will provide a sufficient level of comfort to MfE officer to confirm that the DoC approvals will not impact nor frustrate in any way any Fast Track approval. This will then allow our Fast-Track application to move through its next phase of approvals.

I'd be happy to answer any questions in the interim, otherwise we expect to provide an update to MfE officers in late January, thereafter providing our formal joint statement no later than Parliament sitting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Ngā mihi,

**Phil Wardale**  
Project Director