

## Overview of the fast-track process

The COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act) introduces a short-term consenting process to fast track projects that can boost employment and economic recovery.

For a project to access the fast track process the Minister for the Environment (the Minister) must first make a decision to refer the project. The referral process involves seeking comment from Ministers of the Crown (and local authorities). The Minister also has discretion to seek comment from any other person.

If the Minister decides to refer a project, it progresses to an expert consenting panel who makes a decision on whether to grant consents or notices of requirement. The decision will be made in accordance with the relevant decision making considerations in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Feedback from Ministers of the Crown will assist the Minister to determine whether a project is suitable to refer.

The Act requires the Minister to consider matters such as the economic costs and benefits of the project for people or industries affected by COVID-19, whether the project will create a public benefit and whether there is potential for significant adverse effects (refer to section 19 of the Act). The Act also specifies reasons the Minister may decline an application (refer to section 23(5)).

The comments the Minister is seeking from you at this stage of the fast-track process are high-level. The Minister would like to understand whether you broadly support or oppose the project and why, and whether there are any significant matters you consider the Minister should be aware of when deciding whether a project should be referred to an expert consenting panel.

You will have a further opportunity to provide comments for any projects that the Minister refers to an expert consenting panel. At that stage of the fast-track process, the applicant will be required to lodge a detailed application with the EPA, which will include an environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment. It is at this stage that the merits of the project will be fully assessed, including in relation to environmental effects.

Section 6 of the Act requires any person performing functions and exercising powers under this Act to be consistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and Treaty settlements.

Please use a separate form for each application.

# Comments on applications for referral under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

This form is for Ministers of the Crown to provide comments to the Minister for the Environment to inform the decision to refer projects to an expert consenting panel under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.

<b>Minister providing comment</b>	Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport
<b>Contact person (if follow-up is required)</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.
	Click or tap here to enter text.
	Click or tap here to enter text.

## Comment form

Please use the table below to comment on the application.

<b>Project name</b>	Oruku Landing project
<b>General comment</b>	The proposed site is located well away from state highway network and is of a scale consistent with what could be anticipated in this area. The proposal to include apartment housing/higher density residential area is in line with the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 and is generally supported.
<b>Other considerations</b>	Any application should be accompanied with a detailed Integrated Transport Assessment. The assessment should include multi-modal elements, including walking and cycling and access to public transport.
<b>[Insert specific requests for comment]</b>	Click or tap here to insert responses to any specific matters the Minister is seeking your views on.

## Minister's signoff

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Hon Michael Wood  
**Minister of Transport**

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Date