

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.

Minister providing comment	Minister for Transport
Contact person (if follow-up is required)	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.

Project name	East Coast Heights - Silverdale
General comment	I am advised that Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has no objections to the proposal; the land is live zoned for Mixed Housing Urban, and the development is within the expectations of the zoning standards under the Auckland Unitary Plan. Given the close proximity to the main public transport hub for Orewa/Hibiscus Coast, with frequent (30min) buses to the city centre, the only question is whether the development could or should be higher density than proposed.
Other considerations	Click or tap here to provide any information you consider relevant to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the project to an expert consenting panel.
[Insert specific requests for comment]	Click or tap here to insert responses to any specific matters the Minister is seeking your views on.

Minister's signoff

[Minister's Name]

[Minister's Portfolio]

Date