

BRF-6251

16 June 2025

Hon Judith Collins
Minister of Justice**Notice of Decisions on application for referral of the Waitākere District Court – New Courthouse project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024**

This notice of decisions is for an application received from the Minister of Justice for referral of the Waitākere District Court – New Courthouse project (project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) that has been accepted by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) under section 21 and referred under section 26.

The project application is to designate an area of approximately 4,435 square metres of land at 14 Edmonton Road, Henderson, Auckland, for the following purposes:

- a. Judicial, court, tribunal and related purposes including collection of fines and reparation, administration, support, custodial services, and ancillary activities. Works includes development and operation of land and buildings for the aforementioned purposes.

The designation of the site would provide for the construction and ongoing operation of a new Justice facility known as the Waitākere District Courthouse, intended to replace the existing Waitākere District Courthouse.

The project can only be accepted if the Minister is satisfied the criteria in section 22 is met, which includes being satisfied the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits and if referring the project to the fast-track approvals process would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes and also if it is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

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Decision on referral application

The Minister has decided to accept the referral application for the whole project as he is satisfied it meets the criteria in section 22 (s 21(1)(c)) and to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process under section 26(2)(a).

Reasons for accepting referral application

The Minister is satisfied the project:

- a. is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits; and
- b. referring the project to the fast-track approvals process:
 - i) would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and
 - ii) is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

The Minister is satisfied the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits as it:

- a. has been identified as a priority project in a central government sector plan (Ministry of Justice 10-year Infrastructure Investment Plan)
- b. will deliver new regionally significant infrastructure through provision of a new courthouse

The Ministers is satisfied referring the project:

- a. would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes because the timeframes to process fast-track applications are generally shorter than under normal designation processes and appeals are limited to the High Court on points of law.
- b. is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process because the project is not novel in the New Zealand context and is unlikely to fall outside the type of approval that expert panel members have considered previously

The Minister is satisfied that there is no reason he must decline the project under section 21(3) of the FTAA.

Specified matters for accepted referral application

The following person who lodged the referral application is the person who is authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project (s27(2)): the Minister of Justice.

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Other specified matters for the accepted referral application in relation to a substantive application for the project:

A deadline for lodging the application applies (s27(3)(b)(i). The application must be lodged within two years from the date of issue of this letter.

The following information must be submitted with the application lodged for the project (s27(3)(b)(ii)):

- a. a flood risk assessment which includes:
 - i) an assessment of the risk of flooding (including as an anticipated effect of climate change) on the activities involved in the project
 - ii) effects of the project on flood risk downstream of the project site
 - iii) a description of measures to mitigate the anticipated effect of any flooding
- b. an assessment of the effects of the project on existing stormwater infrastructure, including measures to mitigate any anticipated effects and to ensure the ongoing operation and maintenance of infrastructure on the project site.

The persons or groups from whom a panel must invite comments from in addition to any specified in section 53 (s27(3)(b)(iii)):

- a. Minister of Police
- b. Minister of Corrections

If you have any queries about this notice of decisions, please email referral@fasttrack.govt.nz or alternatively, phone the fast-track call centre on 0800 225 537.

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

cc: Written notice (s28(1)) for accept and decline projects:

the applicant – Minister of Justice

any person invited to comment (s17(1)):

- the relevant local authorities: Auckland Council
- the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Auckland, Minister for Courts
- the relevant administering agencies – Ministry for the Environment

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- the Māori groups identified in the list provided to the Minister – Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust, Te Ākitai Waiohua Waka Taua Inc, Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust, Te Kawerau Iwi Settlement Trust, Ngāti Maru Rūnanga Trust, Ngāti Tamaterā Settlement Trust, Ngāti Te Ata Claims Support Whānau Trust, Te Ākitai Waiohua Settlement Trust, Hako Tūpuna Trust, Taonga o Marutūāhu Trustee Limited/ Marutūāhu Rōpū Limited Partnership, Ngāti Koheriki Claims Committee, Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust/ Whenua Haumi Roroa o Tāmaki Makaurau Limited Partnership, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated, Hauraki Māori Trust Board, Ngaati Whanaunga Ruunanga Trust, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust
- any other person – Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Economic Growth, Minister of Police, Minister of Corrections

cc: Written notice where Minister accepts the application and refers the project (s28(2)):

the Panel Convener – including all the related information received by the Minister

the EPA – including all the related information received by the Minister

the relevant administering agency – Ministry for the Environment