



FTAA–2506–1079: Application received for referral of the project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Stage 1 decisions

Project Name: Mill Road Project – Stage 1

Date submitted:	29 July 2025	Tracking #: BRF–6564	
Security level:	In-Confidence	MfE priority:	Urgent

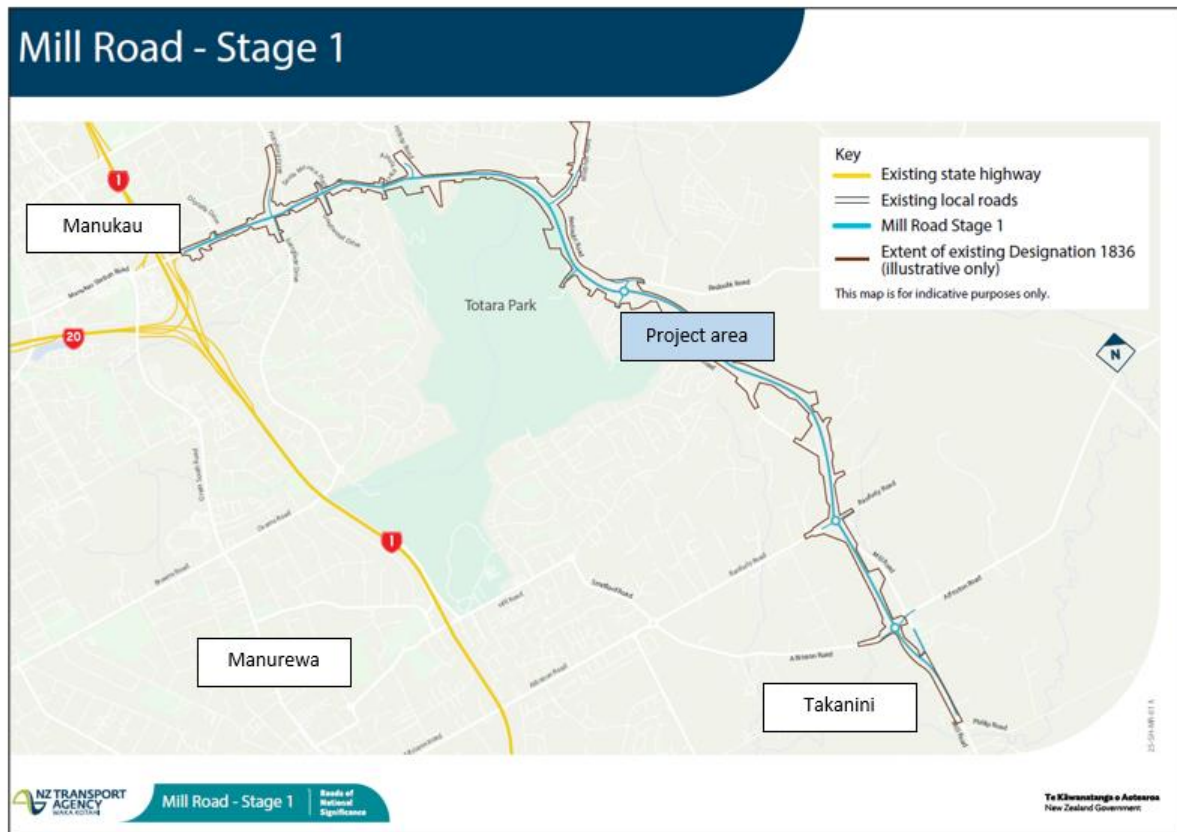
	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure	Decisions on recommendations in Table A	To be advised

Actions for Minister's Office staff	Return the signed briefing to MfE – email to: FTAreferrals@mfe.govt.nz Send email to Ministers to invite comment
Number of attachments: 3	Appendices: 1. Statutory framework summary 2. Application documents for Mill Road Project – Stage 1 (in File Exchange) 3. List of Māori groups referred to in section 18(2)

Ministry for the Environment contacts:

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal Author(s)	Stephanie McNicholl, Julian Jackson		
Acting Manager	Max Gander-Cooper	s 9(2)(a)	✓
General Manager	Ilana Miller	s 9(2)(a)	

Project area



Key messages

1. This briefing seeks your initial decisions on an application from New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to refer the Mill Road Project – Stage 1 project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. At this stage you can either decline an application for the reasons set out section 21, or provide the application to, and invite written comments from, the parties identified in section 17. If you do not decline the application, you will receive a further briefing following receipt of written comments, to assist your final decision on whether to refer the project.
2. The full Mill Road Project is listed in Schedule 2 of the Act and is described as works on approximately 21 kilometres of road between the Redoubt Road interchange on State Highway 1 in Manukau to the proposed Drury South interchange on State Highway 1 in Drury. This referral application is for 7 kilometres of that length and is requested because the Act does not enable substantive applications for listed projects to be lodged for individual stages of projects.
3. Mill Road is identified as a Road of National Significance in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport ('GPS') 2024–2034.
4. This project is to undertake an infrastructure development upgrade of the transport corridor (approximately 7 kilometres in length) between the Redoubt Road interchange on State Highway 1 in Manukau to the Phillip Road intersection with Mill Road in Takanini, Auckland.

5. The project involves developing new roads, upgrading existing roads, some local road improvements, changing existing designations, and additional land acquisition to result in:
 - a. an upgrade of the existing Mill Road to four lanes and associated local road connections
 - b. a westbound bus lane on Redoubt Road between Hollyford Drive and SH1
 - c. a new shared path active mode facility along Mill Road from the SH1/ Mill Road interchange to the intersection of Murphy's Road; and
 - d. an off-road active mode corridor using the old Mill Road alignment from the Murphy's Road intersection to Alfriston Road.
6. The project will require the proposed approvals:
 - a. Resource consents and designations (including changes) approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991
 - b. Wildlife approval under the Wildlife Act 1953
 - c. Archaeological approval under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
7. We note Auckland Transport obtained the original designations for the project in 2016. In 2020, financial responsibility was transferred to NZTA. Section 180 of the RMA provides that where financial responsibility is transferred from one requiring authority to another, responsibility for the designation shall also be transferred.
8. We have undertaken initial analysis of the referral application, and this is presented along with our considerations and recommendations in Table A.
9. We have decided the application is complete and complies with section 14 of the Act, as the application complies with section 13 requirements, may be capable of satisfying the criteria in section 22 and does not appear to involve an ineligible activity. The applicable fee and levy have been paid.
10. We recommend you progress consideration of the referral application to the next stage of analysis (Stage 2) and invite written comments from the parties prescribed in section 17(1) of the Act being: local authorities, the Minister for the Environment and relevant portfolio Ministers, relevant administering agencies, the owners of Māori land within the project area and identified Māori groups from section 18(2) of the Act (listed in Attachment 3).
11. We recommend you invite written comments from additional parties under section 17(5) of the Act being: Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Economic Growth, Minister for Auckland, Auckland Transport, Network Utility Service Providers (Watercare, Vector, Chorus, Spark, Nova Energy, One NZ and Transpower).

Action sought

12. Please indicate your decisions on the recommendations in Table A.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'I' and 'M' that are connected, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager – Delivery and Operations

Table A: Stage 1 analysis

	Project Name	Applicant	Project Area			
Project details	Mill Road Project – Stage 1	New Zealand Transport Agency c/- Beca	Mill Road (linear) corridor – between the Redoubt Road interchange on SH1 in Manukau to the Phillip Road intersection with Mill Road in Takanini, Auckland.			
Project description	<p>The project is to undertake an infrastructure development upgrade of the transport corridor (approximately 7 kilometres in length) between the Redoubt Road interchange on State Highway 1 in Manukau to the Phillip Road intersection with Mill Road in Takanini, Auckland.</p> <p>The project involves developing new roads, upgrading existing roads, some local road improvements, altering the existing designation, and additional land acquisition to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. an upgrade of the existing Mill Road to four lanes and associated local road connectionsb. a westbound bus lane on Redoubt Road between Hollyford Drive and SH1c. a new shared path active mode facility along Mill Road from the SH1/ Mill Road interchange to the intersection of Murphy’s Road; andd. an off-road active mode corridor using the old Mill Road alignment from the Murphy’s Road intersection to Alfriston Road. <p>The project will require the proposed approvals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Resource consents and designations (including changes to) approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991b. Wildlife approval under the Wildlife Act 1953c. Archaeological authority under Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014					
Consultation undertaken	As required by s11, the applicant has consulted with:					
	Relevant local authorities	Relevant iwi authorities, hapu and Treaty settlement entities:	Relevant MACA groups	Ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou]	Relevant administering agencies	Holder of land to be exchanged
	Auckland Council (including Auckland Transport and Auckland Parks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Te Ākitai Waiohuab. Ngāi Tai ki Tāmakic. Ngāti Tamaohod. Ngaati Whanaungae. Ngāti Maruf. Ngāti Te Ata Waiohuag. Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trusth. Te Ahiwarui. Ngāti Tamatera Treaty Settlement Trustj. Waikato Tainuik. Te Kawerau ā Makil. Ngāti Hakom. Ngāti Koherikin. Marutūāhu Collectiveo. Pare Hauraki Collective	Not applicable	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Ministry for the Environmentb. Department of Conservationc. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	Not applicable
Section 22 assessment criteria						
The project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits [section 22(1)(a)]	<p>You may consider any of the following matters or any other matters you consider relevant.</p> <p><i>The project has been identified as a priority project in a central or local government, or sector plan or strategy or a central government infrastructure priority list [s22(2)(a)(i)]</i> Mill Road is identified as a Road of National Significance in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024–2034.</p> <p><i>Will deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure [s22(2)(a)(ii)]</i> The applicant states the project will deliver a new upgraded corridor that will enable the continued functioning of the nationally significant state highway network. The project will improve traffic efficiency on the Mill Road Corridor which is an arterial route linking the south Auckland transport network and an alternative route to State Highway 1 (SH1). The efficiency benefits of the project include significant travel time savings, 25% faster journeys during peak hours, a 9% reduction in congestion and over 8% of freight trips experiencing less congestion.</p> <p><i>Will deliver significant economic benefits [s22(2)(a)(iv)]</i> The applicant considers the project (Stage 1) will achieve this by improving the movement of goods and people. Current modelling indicates construction will contribute \$637 million to GDP in the Auckland economy directly. The flow-on effects of construction are a \$1.38 billion contribution. The total contribution to GDP is just over \$2 billion.</p> <p><i>Will support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards [s22(2)(a)(viii)]</i> The applicant considers the project will achieve this by managing flood risk and resilience in the road network as an alternative to SH1.</p> <p><i>Will address significant environmental issues [s22(2)(a)(ix)]</i></p>					

	<p>The applicant considers the project will achieve this by reducing congestion, creating network resilience and transport choice.</p> <p><i>Is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies [s22(2)(a)(x)]</i> The project has existing designations in the local planning documents and future proofing strategies for Auckland.</p> <p><i>Any other matters that may be relevant [s22(b)]</i> N/A</p>		
referring the project to the fast-track approvals process [section 22(1)(b)]	<p><i>Would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes [s22(1)(b)(i)]</i></p> <p>The applicant considers the project's critical role in improving network resilience and the Government prioritisation of delivery of the project which has construction scheduled to commence in mid-2026, means there is insufficient time available to obtain the alterations to the designations, resource consents, archaeological authorities and wildlife authorities required using normal processes.</p> <p><i>Is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process [s22(1)(b)(ii)]</i></p> <p>The applicant considers that as the project is already part of a project listed under Schedule 2 of the Act, the referral of the project (to support the priority delivery of the first stage) will not adversely affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process. Applying for a 7 km priority section of the listed project will enable easier, more efficient processing of the applications for the project than if they were included in a much larger package for the full extent of the 21 km listed project. This referral application is the first step in enabling the project to commence construction in mid-2026.</p>		
Minister invites comments	You must copy the application to, and invite written comments from [s17(1)]:	You may copy the application to, and invite written comments from, any other person [s17(5)].	You may request further information about a referral application from the applicant, relevant local authorities or relevant administering agencies to be provided within the time frame specified in the request.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Relevant local authorities: Auckland Council b. Minister for the Environment c. Relevant portfolio Minister(s): Minister of Conservation, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Minister for Land Information, Associate Minister of Transport (we propose the Associate Minister to avoid any conflicts with the Infrastructure portfolio). d. Māori groups identified in Attachment 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minister for Regional Development b. Minister for Economic Growth c. Minister for Auckland d. Auckland Transport regarding the designation transfer and proposed changes, can advise if any matters may adversely affect project delivery. e. Network utility service providers ((Watercare, Vector, Chorus, Spark, Nova Energy, One NZ, Transpower) who will all have assets and services impacted and can advise if there are matters which may adversely affect project delivery. 	N/A
Recommendations			Minister's decision
a. Note that section 25 of the Act permits you to decline the referral application without inviting comments from the relevant local authorities, the Minister for the Environment, any relevant Ministers, any relevant administering agencies and the Māori groups identified in the list provided.			Noted
b. Note that you have not yet provided the application to, nor sought any written comments on it from, the parties listed in section 17(1) but that you are required to do so if you do not decline the application under section 21 of the Act.			Noted
c. Note that section 17(5) of the Act permits you to forward an application to, and invite written comments from, any other person.			Noted
d. Note that if written comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame you are required to consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.			Noted
e. Note that section 20 of the Act permits you to request further information from the applicant or relevant local authorities or relevant administering agencies at any time before you decide whether to accept or decline the application.			Noted
f. Agree to progress the Mill Road Stage 1 Project to our Stage 2 analysis (invitation to comment and s 18 report stage).			Yes/No
g. Agree to provide the application to, and invite written comments from:			
i. Relevant local authorities: Auckland Council			Yes/No
ii. Minister for the Environment			Yes/No
iii. Relevant portfolio Ministers: Minister of Conservation, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Minister for Land Information, Associate Minister of Transport			Yes/No
iv. Relevant administering agencies: Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga			Yes/No
v. Māori groups identified in Attachment 3			Yes/No
h. Agree to provide the application to and invite written comments from the following additional entities/persons under section 17(5):			
i. Minister for Regional Development			Yes/No
ii. Minister for Economic Growth			Yes/No
iii. Minister for Auckland			Yes/No
iv. Auckland Transport			Yes/No

v. Network utility service providers: (Watercare, Vector, Chorus, Spark, Nova Energy, One NZ, Transpower)	Yes/No
i. Note that you have agreed to delegate to the Secretary for the Environment your responsibility to send all correspondence, other than to Ministers	Noted
j. Agree to send email and invite written comments from Ministers	Yes/No

Signed:

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure

Date:

Appendix 1:

Statutory framework summary

1. You are the sole decision maker for referral applications. If you accept a referral application, then the whole or part of the project will be referred to the Fast-track approvals process.
2. If a Treaty settlement, the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011, the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019, a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or a joint management agreement provides for consideration of any document or procedural requirements, you must, where relevant:
 - a. give the document the same or equivalent effect through this process as it would have under any specified Act; and
 - b. comply with any applicable procedural requirements.
3. You must decline a referral application if:
 - a. you are satisfied the project does not meet the referral criteria in s22
 - b. you are satisfied the project involves an ineligible activity (s5)
 - c. you consider you do not have adequate information to inform your decision.
4. You may decline an application for any other reason, including those set out in s21(5) and even if the application meets the s22 referral criteria.
5. You may decline an application before or after inviting comments under s 17(1). However, if comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame, you must consider them, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.
6. If you do not decline a referral application at this initial stage you must copy the application to, and invite written comments from:
 - a. the relevant local authorities,
 - b. the Minister for the Environment and relevant portfolio Ministers
 - c. the relevant administering agencies
 - d. the Māori groups identified by the responsible agency
 - e. the owners of Māori land in the project area:
 - f. you may provide the application to and invite comments from any other person.
7. You may request further information from an applicant, any relevant local authority or any relevant administering agency at any time before you decide to decline or accept a referral application (see section 20 of the Act).
8. However, if further information has been sought and provided within the required time frame you must consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.

Appendix 2: Application documents for Mill Road Stage 1 Project: (in File Exchange)

Appendix 3: List of Māori groups referred to in section 18(2)

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)
Te Kawerau Iwi Settlement Trust	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act 2015)
Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Trust	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Claims Settlement Act 2018)
Te Ākitai Waiohū Waka Taua Inc	iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāti Tamaoho Claims Settlement Act 2018)
Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Ngāti Maru Rūnanga Trust	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Ngāti Tamaterā Settlement Trust	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society	iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Ngāti Te Ata Claims Support Whānau Trust	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Hako Tūpuna Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Taonga o Marutūāhu Trustee Limited/ Marutūāhu Rōpū Limited Partnership	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust / Whenua Haumi Roroa o Tāmaki Makaurau Limited Partnership	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014)
Ngaati Whanaunga Ruunanga Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Ngāti Koheriki Claims Committee	Mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d)), other Māori groups with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))
Hauraki Māori Trust Board	other Māori groups with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))