

TO: Avant Group

Date: 28 April 2025

COPY TO: [REDACTED]

Job No: 67940

FROM: [REDACTED]

**Wildlife Approvals Checklist and information Requirements**

This report has been prepared to identify Wildlife Act approval requirements under Section 42(4)(h), and how the substantive application complies with these requirements. This report follows Checklist E- Wildlife approval, of the Fast Track Substantive Application Form. It is reproduced here as part of the substantive application and provides a list of the ecological documents which form a part of this Fast Track consent application.

We acknowledge that at the time of lodgement, the results of the bat survey and tree risk assessment will not be available. The presence of long-tail bats on the site is essentially confirmed, based on available habitat (at least one significant roost tree being a pine, and riparian corridors), nearby records and location of the site within the Riverhead Forest. The bat survey will assist in informing the intensity, frequency and space utilised by bats, with the results of the bat survey intended to assist in the appropriate management during the construction and operational phase of the development. Direct impacts to bats, such as felling of roosts trees, has been avoided by the development.

This Wildlife Approval application is for the capture and relocation of Native Lizards (including copper skink *Oligosoma aeneum*) and other potentially present native lizard species from the earthworks footprint to an adjacent area, that will be subject to habitat enhancement, pest management and restoration planting. For the avoidance of doubt, this Wildlife Approval application does not relate to native birds or bats.

**Documents and associated acronyms referred to**

Document name	Acronym
Ecological Impact Assessment	EclA
Ecological Management Plan / Bat Management Plan	EMP / BMP
Landscape Management Plan (Prepared by Boffa Miskell)	LMP



**Table 1. Information required of Wildlife Approval**

Clause, Schedule 7	Information required for an approval described in section 42(4)(h) (Wildlife Act approval), clause 2 of Schedule 7	Application Reference and Response
2(1)(a)	Specify the purpose of the proposed activity	<p>Refer to EclA: Section 1, pages 6-8</p> <p>The proposal is to construct a 210 lot country side living subdivision on Lot 1, and a retirement village with 260 villas, 36 care units and associated amenities on Lot 2. Recreational walking tracks will be constructed in both lots/</p>
2(1)(b)	<p>Identify the actions the applicant wishes to carry out involving protected wildlife and where they will be carried out (whether on or off public conservation land)</p> <p><i>Guidance note: Under clause 2(2) if the substantive application is to be lodged by more than 1 authorised person, the reference to the applicant in subclause (1)(b) is to the authorised person who is identified in the application as the proposed holder of the wildlife approval.</i></p>	<p>Refer to EclA: Section 5.1, page 41 and Section 5.2.5 page 45 EMP: Section 6 (Lizard Management Plan)</p> <p>We propose to capture and relocate native skinks (e.g. copper skink, <i>Oligosoma aeneum</i>) from the proposed earthworks footprint to an adjacent area that will be subject to habitat enhancement, including pest management (LMP) and restoration/regeneration planting, and as detailed in the draft EMP and LMP.</p> <p>The activities will all be undertaken on the applicant's land, not public conservation land.</p> <p>The actions will involve pre-clearance trapping and systematic searches, followed by destructive searches during vegetation removal phase, to ensure all opportunities to relocate protected lizards are taken. These methods are detailed in Section 6.2 of the EMP</p> <p>The lizards will be released into pest managed and enhanced habitats, within the Project Area, with these areas to be detailed in the final EMP.</p> <p>This Wildlife Approval application does not involve any public conservation land.</p>
2(1)(c)	An assessment of the activity and its impacts against the purpose of the Wildlife Act	<p>Refer to: EclA: Section 5.2.5 EMP: Sections 6 (Lizard Management Plan)</p> <p>The Wildlife Act protects animals classed as wildlife and controls how people interact with wildlife. The application is relevant to the Wildlife Act because it proposes vegetation removal activities and earthworks on land which provides habitat to protected wildlife species, and these species may be killed during unmanaged activities. These species are identified as copper skinks (<i>Oligosoma aeneum</i>); native birds and long tailed bats (<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>).</p> <p>However, this approval is requested in relation to the native lizards only given appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented in relation to native birds and long tailed bats (see Section 2.2 of the EMP which identifies actions that will be undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts on protected avifauna (additional detail in Section 4 of the EMP) and bats (additional detail in Section 5 of the EMP)</p> <p>Section 6 of the EMP specifically proposes capture and relocation of native lizards from habitats to protected and enhanced habitats to</p>



		minimise mortality where they may occur within vegetation and habitats of the Project area.
2(1)(d)	List protected wildlife species known or predicted to be in the area and, where possible, the numbers of wildlife present and numbers likely to be impacted	<p>Common name, species name, number</p> <p><b>Predicted/likely to be in the area (not recorded from survey)</b></p> <p><b>Section 6.2.1 of EMP:</b></p> <p>Copper skink, <i>Oligosoma aeneum</i> &lt; 100 individuals</p> <p>Ornate skink, <i>Oligosoma ornatum</i> &lt; 20 individuals</p> <p>Forest gecko, <i>Mokopirirakau granulatus</i> &lt; 20 individuals</p> <p>Pacific gecko, <i>Dactylocnemis pacificus</i> &lt; 20 individuals</p> <p>Elegant gecko, <i>Naultinus elegans</i> &lt; 20 individuals</p>
2(1)(e)	An outline of impacts on threatened, data deficient, and at-risk wildlife Species (as defined in the New Zealand Threat Classification System	<p>No threatened or data deficient species are expected to occur within the project, noting that all those listed in EclA: Section 5.2.5, Table 16 are at-risk, with only copper skink being predicted to be present.</p> <p>An assessment of the activity and its impacts on native lizards is addressed on Section 5.2.5 and Table 18. In short, the native lizards are likely to be killed or injured during vegetation removal because they would be unable to move out of habitats as they are cleared (c.f. volant birds can fly away). Therefore, mortality and injury should be avoided through capture and relocation prior to and during vegetation removal, as detailed in a lizard management plan and sought via this approval.</p>
2(1)(f)	A statement of how the methods proposed to be used to conduct the actions involving protected wildlife will ensure that best practice standards are met	Best practice standards for managing New Zealand lizards are published in the Department of Conservation Lizard Technical Advisory Group document, 'Guidelines for producing management Zealand Lizards (prepared by the Department of Conservation). The recommended content of this document are contained within the supporting documents of this application, particularly the Ecological Impact Assessment and Section 6 of the Ecological Management Plan
2(1)(g)	A description of the methods to be used to safely, efficiently, and humanely catch, hold, or kill the animals and identify relevant animal ethics processes:	<p>Detailed methods of capture and handling of lizards by experienced ecologists / herpetologists are contained within the Ecological Management Plan (Section 6.). In summary, this includes pre-works systematic searches (Section 6.3.1), and works-assisted destructive searches; with release site appropriateness (Section 6.4.1), and release site enhancement (Section 6.4.2). and monitoring (Section 6.4.5).</p> <p>Capture methods consider timing (environmental and seasonal controls, searching periods, handling protocols, and incidental discovery protocols (Section 6.3.2).</p>
2(1)(h)	A statement of the location or locations in which the activity will be carried out, including a map (and GPS coordinates if available)	<p>The activity will be carried out in over 21.98 ha, in conjunction with the earthworks (as shown in Figure 9 of the EclA). The activity will be undertaken over 15 stages. These stages are in Figure 2 of the Ecological Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The release site will be beyond the localised earthworks habitats and described in Section 6.4 of the EMP</p>
2(1)(i)	A statement of whether authorisation is sought to temporarily hold or relocate wildlife	Authorisation to relocate wildlife (lizards) to adjacent enhanced environments is sought

2(1)(j)	<p>A list of all actual and potential wildlife effects (adverse or positive) of the proposed activity, including effects on the target species, other indigenous species, and the ecosystems at the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>Section 5 of EclA Assessments of effects identifies adverse effects on target and other indigenous species and ecosystems:</p> <p>5.2 Terrestrial Ecology and ecosystems</p> <p>5.2.5 of EclA Effects on lizards</p> <p>5.2.5 of EclA Effects on Avifauna</p> <p>5.2.5 of EclA Effects on bats</p> <p>Overall, the project will result in adverse impacts to indigenous fauna through:</p> <p>The direct loss of 21.98 ha of habitat through earthworks and the removal of vegetation which may potentially provide habitat for indigenous wildlife, particularly avifauna and herpetofauna.</p> <p>These activities have the potential for disturbance, injury, and/or mortality to herpetofauna avifauna (tree and ground nesting) during vegetation removal and construction activities.</p> <p>Incidental harm or mortality to indigenous fauna indirectly affected by the project</p> <p>Post-construction/operative disturbances which may result in the stress, injury or mortality of indigenous wildlife during the life of the development</p> <p>Positive Effects of the development will occur through the extensive revegetation of the site, transitioning the area from rotational pine to indigenous forest ecosystem.</p> <p>Post-construction, extensive indigenous revegetation replacing felled pine plantation. Indigenous revegetation will provide a significant uplift in biodiversity, refuge/nesting habitat, food resources, stepping stone/green corridor connectivity to the wider environment. Trees within the revegetation palette include recognised tree species which provide roost and food resources to long-tail bats</p> <p>Direct removal of bat roost trees largely avoided, minimising degree of disturbance. Regardless, implementation of artificial roosts where applicable (informed by the ABM survey currently ongoing as of 24/03/2025) to provide stepping stone roost habitat and connectivity to the wider Riverhead forest whilst indigenous revegetation matures. Retention of roost tree in riparian corridor.</p>
2(1)(k)	<p>Where adverse effects are identified, state what methods will be used to avoid and minimise those effects, and any offsetting or compensation proposed to address unmitigated adverse effects (including steps taken before the project begins, such as surveying, salvaging, and relocating protected wildlife)</p>	<p>Section 5.4 of EclA Assessments of effects identifies measure to reduce the severity of adverse effects in accordance with the effect's management hierarchy.</p> <p>Section 5.4.2.1 identifies measures to avoid and minimise construction effects on lizards, avifauna and bats.</p> <p>Section 5.4.2.2 identifies measures to avoid and minimise operational effects on lizards, avifauna and bats.</p> <p>The overall level of effect on indigenous fauna, including At Risk copper skinks is assessed as low, following management actions to avoid and minimise actual and potential effects (methods / actions detailed in the EMP). Therefore, offset or compensation for these species is not proposed. Management actions include;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>Avifauna and herpetofauna surveys to be undertaken prior to construction beginning to determine species such as fern bird and Australasian bittern, that may be affected, and adaptive management implemented if confirmed.</p> <p>Vegetation clearance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the EMP, including avifauna, herpetofauna and bat management. EMP include best practice protocols regarding pre-works surveys to ensure avoidance of bat roosts and bird nests, incidental finds, and salvage and relocation of herpetofauna.</p> <p>Pre-clearance surveys of bird nests (including tree and ground nesting) and bat roosts checks on vegetation to be removed prior to felling, in accordance with best practice protocols as outlined in the EMP. Salvage and relocation of herpetofauna using standard/best practice relocation methods.</p> <p>Identification of ground-dwelling nesters (i.e. pipit nest) during pre-works survey will trigger the implementation of a 30 m exclusion zone around nest</p> <p>Hours of construction may be limited to avoid dawn and dusk, and the one hour before, and after, if appropriate i.e. avoid peak bittern boom period.</p> <p>Implementation of “rules” on residences banning the ownership of cats and limiting the movement of dogs through property restrictions and “leash only” areas. Restrictions of roofing surfaces (dark and non-reflective) and lighting throughout to minimise light disturbance.</p>
	A statement of whether the applicant or any company director, trustee, partner, or anyone else involved with the application has been convicted of any offence under the Wildlife Act	The applicant or any company director, trustee, partner, or anyone else involved with the application has NOT been convicted of any offence under the Wildlife Act.
	A statement of whether the applicant or any company director, trustee, partner, or anyone else involved with the application has any current criminal charges under the Wildlife Act pending before a court	The applicant or any company director, trustee, partner, or anyone else involved with the application do NOT have any current criminal charges under the Wildlife Act pending before a court.
	Provision of proof and details of all consultation, including with hapū or iwi, on the application specific to wildlife impacts	Engagement and consultation with mana whenua in relation to the project has occurred, and will be outlined in the Assessment of Environmental Effects
	Provision of any additional written expert views, advice, or opinions the applicant has obtained concerning their proposal	Advise has been sought from Bioresearches.



## APPLICABILITY AND LIMITATIONS

### Restrictions of Intended Purpose

This report has been prepared solely for the benefit of Avant Group as our client with respect to the brief. The reliance by other parties on the information or opinions contained in the report shall, without our prior review and agreement in writing, be at such party's sole risk.

### Legal Interpretation

Opinions and judgements expressed herein are based on our understanding and interpretation of current regulatory standards, and should not be construed as legal opinions. Where opinions or judgements are to be relied on they should be independently verified with appropriate legal advice.

### Maps and Images

All maps, plans, and figures included in this report are indicative only and are not to be used or interpreted as engineering drafts. Do not scale any of the maps, plans or figures in this report. Any information shown here on maps, plans and figures should be independently verified on site before taking any action. Sources for map and plan compositions include LINZ Data and Map Services and local council GIS services. For further details regarding any maps, plans or figures in this report, please contact Babbage Consultants Limited.

### Reliability of Investigation

Babbage has performed the services for this project in accordance with the standard agreement for consulting services and current professional standards for environmental site assessment. No guarantees are either expressed or implied.

Recommendations and opinions in this report are based on discrete sampling data. The nature and continuity of matrix sampled away from the sampling points are inferred and it must be appreciated that actual conditions could vary from the assumed model.

There is no investigation that is thorough enough to preclude the presence of materials at the site that presently, or in the future, may be considered hazardous. Because regulatory evaluation criteria are constantly changing, concentrations of contaminants present and considered to be acceptable may in the future become subject to different regulatory standards, which cause them to become unacceptable and require further remediation for this site to be suitable for the existing or proposed land use activities.