

17 February 2026

**Southern Infrastructure (Cable Car) Limited**

c/o Brett Giddens – The agent  
Town Planning Group (NZ) Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Brett,

**Section 20 – Request for further information in relation to the referral application for the Queenstown Cable Car project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA-2510-1124)**

The Acting Minister for Infrastructure, Hon Shane Jones (the Acting Minister) has received your application to refer the Queenstown Cable Car project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process.

To assist the Acting Minister’s consideration of the referral application, I write under delegation from the Acting Minister and in accordance with section 20 of the Act to request the following further information:

1. *Potential ineligible activity under section 5 of the Act*

The applicant proposes to establish an airport station (Option A as illustrated on page 18 of the Survey Plans in Attachment 2 of the application) on land described as a reserve, with the legal description being Section 2-3, 5-7, 22-24 Block VIII and Section 2-3, 5-7, 22-24 Block IX and Block XIX Town of Frankton contained in Record of Title OT161/204. The registered owner of the land is Health New Zealand – a Crown Entity (separate from the Crown).

The section 19 report obtained from the Director-General of Conservation for the project states that the land is identified in NaPALIS as a Government Purpose (Hospital) Reserve held under section 22 of the Reserves Act 1977. However, it also notes that the reserve status for this parcel of land is unclear, as the Record of Title does not specifically refer to the Reserves Act 1977 and instead describes the purpose of the site as “In Trust as a Site for a Public Hospital”.

Under section 5(1)(j) and (k) of the Act, an activity is ineligible if it would occur on a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 that is:

- vested in someone other than the Crown or a local authority, and written agreement has not been obtained from the person or persons in whom the reserve is vested [*section 5(1)(j)*]; or
- managed by someone other than the Department of Conservation (DOC) or a local authority, and written agreement has not been obtained from the person or persons responsible for managing it [*section 5(1)(k)*].

Considering the above, we request further information that confirms that the project does not involve an ineligible activity under section 5(1)(j) or (k) of the Act or specifies otherwise.

2. *Potential approvals under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014*

The applicant is not seeking approvals under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPT Act), as they have not identified any heritage sites within the project area. The Chief Executive of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) was invited to provide written comments on the project as an “any other person” under section 17(5). This was to confirm whether the project would impact any heritage sites, given the scale of the project area and the presence of existing archaeological sites within the Queenstown area.

HNZPT provided written comments stating that the project has the potential to modify or destroy previously recorded archaeological site E41/302, and there is also potential to encounter further archaeological material or sites, noting that a number of archaeological sites are recorded within the wider vicinity of the project area. As such, HNZPT considers that an archaeological authority is required under the HNZPT Act prior to works commencing.

Considering the above, we request the following further information:

- confirmation on whether an archaeological authority under the HNZPT Act is required for the project; and
- if the approval is required, whether this approval is intended to be sought via the fast-track approvals process, or outside the fast-track approvals process.

If you wish to provide the further information requested, you must respond within 10 working days of the date of this request. The Acting Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Before the due date, please send the further information response to the project lead (Ashley Sycamore) via return email. If you consider the further information cannot be provided within the specified time frame, or you have any questions, please contact the project lead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top left that extends into a long, horizontal stroke towards the right, ending in a small upward flick.

Ilana Miller

**General Manager, Delivery and Operations**