

APPENDIX 42

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PRE-LODGEMENT CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Fast-Track Pre-Lodgement Consultation Summary

Purpose - This document provides a summary of information from DOC following a pre-lodgement consultation request.

Project Details

Project name:	Shipyard and Drydock Facility
Engagement type:	Pre-lodgement engagement Substantive Application
Applicant/agent:	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)
Proposal overview:	Construction of a shipyard and dry dock facility adjacent to the existing Northport port facility
Location:	Marsden Point, Whangārei Harbour
Date pre-lodgement request received:	19 May 2026
Summary of pre-lodgement Consultation	
The applicant sought a response from DOC within 20 working days. It was later agreed to extend the deadline to enable further sharing of information and to explore the nature of the Marsden Spit Government Purpose Wildlife Management Reserve (the Reserve)	
Fast track project lead DOC:	Ellanor Babbage – Senior Fast Track Consents Advisor (Dunedin Office)
DOC Permissions/ Approvals Identified by applicant in pre-lodgement request as potentially required:	Authority under Wildlife Act 1953
DOC Commentary on Fast Track approvals and permissions identified: Note DOC’s role in relation to specific	Concession The location of the Reserve on DOC's mapping system suggests that the proposed shipyard and dry dock facility may enter DOC managed PCL. Based on the information available to us, DOC agrees with the advice provided by MBIE that the boundary (mean high water) has moved, and as such, no concession is required. Wildlife Authority Approvals DOC is aware of a high number of protected species within the project area and immediate surrounds.

	The application for wildlife approval needs to include all the information listed in Schedule 7, Clause 2 (FTTA). Guidance for applying for a wildlife approval under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 can be viewed here: Guidance for applying for a wildlife approval <u>Potential issues to consider:</u> DOC recommends confirming the location of any kororā release site as part of the Kororā Management Plan (KMP). We note that it will be difficult to certify any KMP without this information which may impact suggested condition 5.6. DOC notes the absence of any clear compensation / mitigation for destroyed burrows, as well as no clear outline of how any loss of penguin habitat will be addressed. Otherwise, DOC considers the KMP to be reasonably thorough in kororā detection, harm avoidance and criteria around how and when kororā might be moved. In terms of the approval itself, DOC wishes to raise the following: We recommend clause 3.1 is revised as follows: <i>“Kororā must only be handled by Authorised Personnel listed in Schedule 1, Item 3, or by personnel with appropriate training acting under the direct supervision of Authorised Personnel. Any additional Authorised Personnel must be approved by the relevant DOC Operations Manager prior to exercising the Approval.”</i> We note that the preferred DG address for service is: AskPermissions@doc.govt.nz We are also pleased to see DOC has a role certifying the relevant management plan (the KMP) attached to the Wildlife approval. Freshwater Fisheries Activity Approvals The Applicant should be aware of the approval requirements under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations. The Applicant should be aware that culverts should be designed in accordance with New Zealand fish passage guidelines and that any culverts required may require a complex freshwater fisheries activity approval. The updated Fish Passage Guidelines (Version 2.0) set out best-practice approaches and design standards for providing fish passage: https://niwa.co.nz/freshwater/fish-passage-home/new-zealand-fish-passage-guidelines.
Treaty partners:	DOC has not carried out a process to identify Treaty partners with interests relevant to this site. We encourage the applicant to engage directly with relevant Māori groups as required by section 29 of the Act.

Treaty Settlement implications/considerations:	DOC has not carried out a process to identify Treaty settlement obligations specifically relevant to this site but notes for the applicant that this will form part of the section 18 report prepared by MFE.
Potential Resource Management Act (RMA) considerations and effects: <i>Note: DOC's role in relation to 53(2)(m)(i) FTAA</i>	At this stage, DOC is unable to provide a comprehensive indication of areas of interest in the RMA space. The following list is an inconclusive summary of areas which may be of interest to DOC in relation to this project: • Impacts on the marine environment including: - Marine mammals, - Construction noise, - Turbidity impacts on foraging, - Green turtle feeding grounds, - Great White Shark pupping grounds, and - Marine ecosystems. • Impacts on avifauna within the wider project area. • Cumulative effects in conjunction with the consented Northport expansion. • Impacts on the Reserve, particularly its boundary. • Impacts on the sandbank utilised in the Northport expansion given its close proximity to the proposed wharf. From the reports provided to DOC, and in the time available we are able to make the following comments: • DOC is interested in the proposed remediation and monitoring activities for the project. As such we are interested in a document referenced in the information you have provided to date: <i>"MBIE (2026) Northland Shipyard and Dry Dock: Proposed capital dredging — Draft environmental monitoring and management plan. Prepared by Enviser Ltd., Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, Wellington"</i> • DOC also remains very interested in the underwater noise assessment for the project given the presence of marine mammals in the area. We are also keen to understand if the underwater noise is intended to be covered by the Noise Management Plan that has been provided to DOC.
DOC Statutory Planning Document considerations in relation to site (e.g. CGP/CMS/CMP):	The following documents are relevant for DOC managed land: • Conservation General Policy • Northland Conservation Management Strategy
Any specific information requests to applicant(s)/agent for pre-app engagement at this point:	DOC highlights the following as of particular interest regarding the project: • <i>MBIE (2026) Northland Shipyard and Dry Dock: Proposed capital dredging — Draft environmental monitoring and management plan. Prepared by Enviser Ltd., Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, Wellington</i> • Underwater Noise Assessment
Additional Notes:	DOC understands that we are providing this information within days of MBIE's indicated intended lodgement date. We understand that as such, the application may not reflect all of our comments – however, to facilitate a smoother process

	we ask that MBIE continue to engage with us on matters of concern, to enable us to provide constructive s51 and s53 documents to the Panel. While DOC will assist applicants as much as we can when they engage in pre-lodgement notification, it is the applicants' responsibility to comply with the FTAA and to ensure they have applied for all permissions they need. Note that a Panel will invite the statutory bodies listed in clause 4 of Schedule 7 to comment on the application (NZCA, conservation boards, Fish and Game Council, and Game Animal Council). We encourage applicants to engage with these bodies in advance of filing a substantive application.
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