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12 February 2025

Jade King-Hazel
Department of Conservation
253 Chadwick Road West
Greerton
Tauranga
3112

Sent by email: jkinghazel@doc.govt.nz

Dear Jade

NOTIFICATION OF FAST-TRACK APPROVALS APPLICATION FOR THE STELLA PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

We are writing to inform the Department of Conservation that Port of Tauranga Limited (**POTL**) is applying under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**Act**) for the necessary consents and approvals to undertake the Stella Passage Development, which is a project that is listed in Schedule 2 of the Act (**Development**). As discussed further below, POTL's application will include an application for a wildlife approval under s 42(4)(h) of the Act. As the relevant administering agency for the Wildlife Act 1953, POTL is required to consult with the Department of Conservation under section 29(1) of the Act prior to its lodgement of its application.

POTL is proposing to lodge its application at the end of the first quarter, 2025.

The Development comprises reclamation of land, including the associated capital dredging and extension of the existing wharves at Sulphur Point and Mount Maunganui. Minor structures at Butters Landing and mooring and breasting dolphins will also be constructed. A map of the location of the Development is attached to this letter for your reference.



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As part of its application POTL seeks a wildlife approval under s 42(4)(h) of the Act to catch and release the following wildlife from the Mount Maunganui rock wall (which will be dismantled as part of the development):

- (a) live blue penguins to relocate them to an area which POTL has designated for penguin habitat, which will have purpose built penguin nesting boxes; and
- (b) live red-billed gulls to relocate them to a purpose built 200m rock wall a short distance south of the proposed Mount Maunganui wharf extension.

POTL's Blue Penguin and Avian Management Plan includes measures that mean that physical removal of blue penguins and/or red-billed gulls is unlikely to be required, but POTL is applying for this approval so that it has been obtained in the unlikely event that relocation of any penguins or gulls is required.

If you require further information, have any questions, or wish to engage with POTL on the application before lodgment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Dan Kneebone

General Manager – Property and Infrastructure



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