

File ref: 26-BRF-02924 / FTAA-2607-1273

15 October 2026

Jim Jefferis
Waste Management NZ Limited (the applicant)
email: s 9(2)(a)

C/- Keeley Clayton
Tonkin & Taylor Limited (the agent)
email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jim

Section 28 – Notice of decisions on the referral application for the Auckland Regional Landfill project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

This notice of decisions is for a referral application received from Waste Management NZ Limited (the applicant) for the Auckland Regional Landfill project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

Project details

The project is described as being the construction, operation, closure, and aftercare of a new Class 1 Landfill, and associated infrastructure, in the Wayby Valley area north of Auckland.

The site where the project is proposed to be located is at an approximately 1020-hectare site at 1232 State Highway 1, Wayby Valley.

The project will require the following approvals:

- a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)
- b. Wildlife Act approval under the Wildlife Act 1953
- c. archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

The project may also require approval for a standard freshwater fisheries activity, and/or complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and/or the Conservation Act 1987 (for fish salvage activities).

Statutory framework for referral applications

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

The project can only be accepted if the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) is satisfied the criteria in section 22 are met, which includes being satisfied the project is an infrastructure or

development project that would have significant regional or national benefits and referring the project to the fast-track approvals process would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost effective way than under normal processes, and is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

Under section 21(3) of the Act, the Minister must decline a referral application if:

- the Minister is satisfied that the project does not meet the criteria in section 22
- the Minister is satisfied that the project involves an ineligible activity
- the Minister considers they do not have adequate information to inform the decision.

Additionally, the Minister has the discretion to decline a referral application for any other reason, even if the project meets the criteria outlined in section 22 of the Act.

Decision on referral application

The Minister has decided to accept the referral application under section 21(1)(c) and refer the whole project to the fast-track approvals process under section 26(2)(a). The Minister is satisfied that the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the Act, for the reasons detailed below.

Reasons for accepting referral application

The Minister is satisfied the project:

- a. is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits; and
- b. referring the project to the fast-track approvals process –
 - i. would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and
 - ii. is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

Specifically, the Minister is satisfied the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the Act because the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits as it:

- a. is for a new Class 1 landfill, which is within the definition of infrastructure under the National Policy Statement for Infrastructure
- b. will deliver new regionally significant infrastructure [section 22(2)(a)(ii)]: through supply of significant additional waste disposal capacity for Auckland, and flow on capacity benefits across neighbouring regions
- c. will deliver significant economic benefits [section 22(2)(a)(iv)]: through reducing disposal costs for households and businesses (including reduced transportation costs) compared with a counterfactual of the existing Redvale Landfill closing and not being replaced.

The Minister is also satisfied referring the project to the fast-track approvals process:

- a. would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes [section 22(1)(b)(i)], because:

- i. the existing RMA approvals process remains subject to ongoing appeals, with an uncertain timeframe for final resolution
 - ii. the applicant considers the project's greater certainty of timeframe and outcome from the fast-track process represents a material benefit, compared with the compounding cost of continued delay and risk of further protracted appeals in the current RMA process
 - iii. the Act enables a single process for multiple types of approvals that would otherwise need to be sought and approved for this project separately
- b. is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process [section 22(1)(b)(ii)] because:
- i. matters already dealt with through the ongoing RMA appeals process can be carried through into a fast-track approvals process
 - ii. the applicant has extensive experience operating within Auckland and nationwide, including current (ongoing) experience in the fast-track approvals process through the separate Redvale Landfill Expansion substantive application.

The Minister is satisfied there is no reason they must decline the project under section 21(3) of the Act. The Minister is also satisfied there is no reason to decline the project under section 21(4) and (5) of the Act.

Specified matters for accepted referral application

1. Under section 27(2) of the Act, Waste Management NZ Limited, who lodged the referral application, as the person who is authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project.
2. Under section 27(3)(b)(i) of the Act, a deadline of one year from the date of issue of this letter applies for lodging the substantive application.
3. Under section 27(3)(b)(ii) of the Act, the following information must be submitted with the substantive application lodged for the project: Detail of all conditions that have been agreed to through the existing appeals process relating to RMA approvals for the project, at the time a substantive application is lodged.
4. Under section 27(3)(b)(iii) of the Act, in addition to those specified in section 53, a panel must invite comments from: Rodney Local Board.

Other matters

Under section 16(2)(c) of the Act, the Minister directs any panel that considers a substantive application for the project to comply with the following requirements:

- a. how to apply the consultation procedures in the Ngāti Manuhiri conservation protocol to inform its engagement with that iwi
- b. how to comply with the consultation process set out in the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau conservation relationship agreement when engaging with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki

- c. whether to apply the consultation process set out in the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau conservation relationship agreement when engaging with other relevant iwi members of the Tāmaki Collective.

Under section 28 of the Act, the Secretary for the Environment must also give written notice of decisions made by the Minister on an accepted referral application to the parties specified in Appendix 1 of this letter.

If you have any queries about this notice of decisions, please email referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Oliver Sangster.

If you have any queries about the substantive process, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 225 537).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' and 'C' intertwined, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Max Gander-Cooper
Acting Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix 1: Section 28 – Notice of Minister’s decision on accepted referral application

Section 28(1)(ii) – Anyone invited to comment on the application

<i>Relevant local authorities</i>	Auckland Council (including Watercare Services Limited and Auckland Transport)
<i>Relevant portfolio Ministers</i>	The Minister for the Environment The Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and the Minister for Māori Development The Minister of Conservation The Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
<i>Relevant administering agencies</i>	Department of Conservation Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
<i>The Māori groups under s17(d)</i>	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust Te Kawerau Iwi Trust Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Trust Ngāti Pāoa Iwi Trust Ngāti Maru Rūnanga Trust Ngāti Te Ata Claims Support Whānau Trust Taonga o Marutūāhu Trustee Limited/ Marutūāhu Rōpū Limited Partnership Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust Ngāti Tamaterā Settlement Trust Ngaati Whanaunga Ruunanga Trust Hako Tūpuna Trust Ngātiwai Trust Ngaati Whanaunga Ruunanga Trust Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust Te Roroa Whatu Ora Trust
<i>Any other persons under s17(5)</i>	The Minister for Economic Growth The Minister for Auckland The Minister for Regional Development The Minister for Energy The Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery The Chief Executive of Vector Limited The Chief Executive of New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

Section 28(2) – Other parties for an accepted referral application

<i>The Panel Convener</i>	Including all the information received by the Minister as required by section 28(4)
<i>Any iwi authorities or Treaty settlement entities (other than those that must be notified as identified above) that the Minister considers have an interest in the matter</i>	No additional iwi authorities or Treaty settlement entities have been identified beyond those listed above.
<i>Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</i>	Including all the information received by the Minister as required by section 28(4)
<i>Relevant administering agencies</i>	As identified above.