

# Referral application form to use for the fast-track process

Under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

## About this referral application

This referral application form has been [approved](#) by the Secretary for the Environment in accordance with the [fast-track approvals process](#) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). All referral applications under the Act must be submitted using this form.

We recommend you discuss your referral application and the information requirements with us before you lodge the referral application. Please contact the Fast-track support team on 0800 327 875 or email [info@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fasttrack.govt.nz)

### **Please provide a general level of detail in your application; sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application.**

You must use this form to apply for referral applications and complete all relevant fields, even where you provide supporting attachments that are more detailed. Include attachment or appendix numbers in the relevant fields and list the attachments in section 5 of this form.

If the required information and relevant supporting material is not provided, the application will be returned to you as incomplete.

If your application is determined to be complete, and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) considers that your project may be capable of satisfying the assessment criteria and does not appear to involve an ineligible activity, and you have paid all related fees, charges and/or levies, then we will provide it to the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister).

Unless the Minister decides to decline the application before doing so, the Minister will invite comments on the application from relevant local authorities, Ministers, [administering agencies](#), identified Māori groups, owners of Māori land in the project area and any other person the Minister decides is appropriate. The Minister may also request further information from you, the relevant local authorities, or relevant administering agencies before making a decision on the referral application.

If the Minister accepts your referral application, then you may lodge a substantive application with the EPA and the substantive application may be considered by a decision-making panel.

## Application fees and Cost recovery

Under the [Fast-track Approvals \(Cost Recovery\) Regulations 2025](#) (the Regulations), applicants lodging a referral application are required to pay a fee (deposit) of \$12,000 (plus GST), and a levy of \$6,700 (plus GST) to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The fees are set in [Schedule 1 of the Regulations](#). These fees must be paid before lodgement of your referral application. If the required amount is not paid the application will be returned as incomplete.

Please note the final costs payable at the referral stage may exceed the referral application fee (deposit) paid. More information about cost recovery under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 is available from [Fast-track approvals cost recovery process](#).

## Submitting your application

You will need to submit this form through our digital Fast-track portal. You will need to receive a link to register/access the portal.

If you need any help with the form, you can call or email us:

- 0800 327 875 (0800 FASTRK) (from within New Zealand)
- email: [info@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fasttrack.govt.nz)

### Ways you can send your completed form to us

By digital portal – you will need to receive a link to register/access: [Fast-track website](#)

By email – [info@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fasttrack.govt.nz)

## Your personal information

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is collecting your personal information for the purpose of administering your referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. We will only use the information for the purposes of contacting you in relation to this application.

MfE may provide your application, or details from your application to other agencies or local authorities for the purpose of administering your referral application. If your application is accepted as complete and progresses through the referral process, the Minister may consult with other agencies and groups on your application. This will require the Minister to share the details of your application with the EPA, the Panel Convener, and those groups.

We will store your personal information securely. You have the right to access the personal information we hold about you and to ask for it to be corrected if it is wrong. If you would

like to access your personal information, or have it corrected, please contact us at [referrals@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:referrals@fasttrack.govt.nz)

## Official information

All information you provide with this application is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released in accordance with that Act.

## Publishing your application

We intend to publish your referral application on the Fast-track Approvals website.

Any personal contact details in application documents will not be made publicly available. Please provide a copy of the application with all personal contact details redacted.

MfE may also redact certain information from publication in accordance with the Official Information Act 1992. If you think your application contains information which should be withheld, please clearly identify it and provide an explanation as to why it should be withheld.

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Section 1: Applicant details

*A person or persons may apply to use the fast-track process for a project. Where there is more than one person, the referral application must be lodged jointly by all of the persons who are proposed to be authorised persons for the project.*

*If the referral application is accepted and referred by the Minister, the person or persons who lodged the referral application will be specified as the person who is, or the persons who are, authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project.*

## 1.1 Applicant(s) – repeat for all applicants

**1.1.1 Organisation name:** Auckland Council (Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience Department)

**1.1.2 NZBN (optional):** 9429000034753

**1.1.3 Contact name:** Vesa Barron

**1.1.4 Phone:** s 9(2)(a)

**1.1.5 Email address:** s 9(2)(a)

**1.1.6 Postal address (if preferred method of contact):**

**Additional Applicants:**

**1.2 Agent acting on behalf of applicant (if applicable)**

**1.2.1 Organisation name:**

**1.2.2 Contact name:**

**1.2.3 Phone:**

**1.2.4 Email address:**

**1.2.5 Postal address (if preferred method of contact):**

**1.3 Finance – Agent acting on behalf of applicant (if applicable)**

**1.3.1 Organisation name:** Auckland Council (Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience Department)

**1.3.2 Contact name:** Shan Warusavithana

**1.3.3 Phone:** s 9(2)(a)

**1.3.4 Email address:** s 9(2)(a)

**1.3.5 Postal address (if preferred method of contact):** 135 Albert Street,  
Auckland Central Auckland New Zealand 1010

*If you are making this application on behalf of the applicant, please attach evidence that you are authorised to make this application.*

**1.3.6** Please direct all correspondence relating to this application (including correspondence from MfE) to:

*If selecting Applicant and there is more than 1 person who lodged the referral application, please identify 1 person to receive all correspondence on behalf of all applicants.*

**1.4.1 Compliance and enforcement history – repeat for all applicants**

**1.4.1** Have there been any compliance or enforcement actions taken against the applicant (or if the referral application is lodged by more than one person, any of those persons) under a specified Act definition for either ‘compliance’ or ‘enforcement’?

Yes

- 1.4.2** If you answered yes above, please provide a summary of the relevant legislation and provisions, and any compliance or enforcement actions, and the outcome of those actions taken under the [specified Act](#) against the applicant or applicants, if the referral is being lodged jointly.

Auckland Council (Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience Department) has an extensive portfolio of stormwater, small potable water and wastewater assets throughout the Auckland Region, with a proven track record of environmental compliance in relation to their operation. Compliance and enforcement history is detailed in Appendix G. In summary, since 2020 Auckland Council have received one infringement notice and two formal warnings under the RMA. Considering the breadth of Healthy Waters assets, the organisation has established a commendable record of environmental compliance in relation to the construction, operation, and maintenance of their assets. Healthy Waters is committed to upholding best management practices and compliance to ensure adherence to its consent conditions.

## Section 2: Referral application summary

### 2.1 Project name

*This is the name by which the project will be known publicly. For example - avoid using street addresses, place names, company names.*

Ngā Wairau – Stage 1

### 2.2 Project description and location

#### 2.2.1 Provide a description of the project and the activities it involves

*The project description helps us with inviting comments from relevant parties on the application, and publishing information about the application.*

The proposal is for: (a) flood resilience infrastructure works; and (b) reserve reinstatement, including site stabilisation, landscaping, new footpaths/boardwalks, and formal and informal recreation.

#### 2.2.2 Provide a description or map of the whole project area that identifies its boundaries in sufficient detail to enable consideration of the referral application.

*For example, site address(es), certificate of title(s), shape files*

The project is located at 21 Northcote Road, 17, 17A, 17B and 17C Silverfield Lane, Wairau Valley, Auckland. Refer to Appendix B for a plan of the Project Footprint.

### 2.3 Ineligible activity

Your referral application must demonstrate that the project does not involve any ineligible activities as defined in [Section 5](#) of the Act. Please consider each ineligible activity below and where relevant, provide the requested details.

When providing your response below, where possible, **provide details of any parties involved, the extent of their holding and the activity relevant to their area.**

Where a project involves an activity that may be the subject of a determination under sections [23](#) or [24](#), and you are intending to seek a Ministerial determination for that activity under either section, you must still complete this section in full. Determinations under, and information required in respect of, sections 23 and 24 are covered further under 2.5

Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24.

If your application relates to certain mining activities below the surface of the land and meets the other relevant criteria under [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act then an agreement under [section 5\(1\)\(a\), \(b\), \(j\) or \(k\)](#) may not be required. This should be identified under the relevant questions below, and you must provide the additional information required in respect of [section 5\(2\)](#) under 2.3 Ineligible activity.

**2.3.1** Does the project include an activity that would occur on identified [Māori land](#) as defined in section 4 of the Act?

No

a. If yes, please address the following:

i. identify the land involved and the owner(s) of the land.

ii. Confirm that the activity on the land has been agreed with the owners of the land and provide evidence of the written agreement; or

A. advise whether it is proposed to seek a determination under [section 23](#) and provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below; or

B. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

**2.3.2** Does the project involve an activity that would occur in a customary marine title area?

No

- a. Address the following:
  - i. Identify the relevant customary marine title area, who the customary marine title group is;
  - ii. Provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the customary marine title group and provide a copy of the same; **or**
    - A. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 **Ineligible activity** below.

**2.3.3** Does the project involve an activity that would occur in a protected customary rights area?

**No**

- a. Address the following:
  - i. Identify the protected customary rights area, the group who holds these rights and the nature of the protected customary right(s)
  - ii. Explain your proposed activity and identify whether you consider that it would have a less than minor adverse effect on the exercise of the protected customary right(s), and briefly explain why; **or**
  - iii. Advise whether you consider that your proposed activity would have a more than minor effect on the exercise of the protected customary right(s), and if so, confirm that the activity has been agreed to in writing by the protected customary rights group and provide a copy of that agreement.

**2.3.4** Does the project involve an activity that would occur on: Māori customary land; OR land set apart as a Māori reservation as defined in section 4 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

**Not applicable**

**2.3.5** Does the project involve an aquaculture activity or an activity that is incompatible with aquaculture activities that would occur within an aquaculture settlement area (under section 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004); or an area reserved under another Treaty settlement for the aquaculture activities of a particular group?

**No**

**2.3.6** Provide details of the aquaculture activity or the activity that is incompatible with aquaculture and the location

**2.3.7** Provide details of the relevant aquaculture settlement area or Treaty settlement legislation reserving space for aquaculture and include details of the impacted parties or particular group.

**2.3.8** Provide details on whether or not the applicant is authorised to apply for a coastal permit within the aquaculture settlement area, or area reserved under another Treaty settlement for aquaculture activities, including a copy of any such authorisation.

**2.3.9** Does the project include an activity that would require an access arrangement under [section 61](#) or [61B](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991?

No

a. Provide the following information:

i. what is the activity that would require the access arrangement; and

ii. does the project include an activity that would occur on Crown owned land or internal waters and land of the common marine and coastal area described in Schedule 4 of that Act and provide details of the same.

iii. If so describe how the activity meets the criteria in [section 61\(1A\)\(a-e\)](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991; **or**

iv. Confirm and provide evidence that the project would not occur in an area for which a permit cannot be granted under that Act:

**2.3.10** Does the project include an activity that would be prevented under any of sections [165J](#), [165M](#), [165Q](#), [165ZC](#), or [165ZDB](#) (regarding the management of occupation in common marine and coastal area) of the Resource Management Act 1991?

No

**2.3.11** Provide details about which section the project does not comply with and, if relevant, the provisions of the regional coastal plan that are applicable.

**2.3.12** Does the project include an activity (other than an activity that would require an access arrangement under the [Crown Minerals Act 1991](#)) that would occur on land that is listed in [Schedule 4](#) of this Act?

No

- a. Provide the following:
  - i. identify the activity and which clause under Schedule 4 is applicable; and
  - ii. confirm whether you are seeking that the Minister make a determination under [section 24](#), and if so, whether the determination sought relates to existing electricity infrastructure or new electricity lines and provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below.

**2.3.13** Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a national reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 and requires approval under that Act?

No

- a. Address the following:
  - i. identify the activity and type of national reserve under the Reserves Act
  - ii. identify what approval(s) would be required under the Reserves Act.
  - iii. Confirm whether you are seeking that the Minister make a determination under [section 24](#) and if so whether the determination sought relates to existing electricity infrastructure or new electricity lines.? If so, provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below

**2.3.14** Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 that is vested in someone other than the Crown or a local authority?

No

- a. Address the following:
  - i. identify the activity, the reserve type under the Reserves Act, and the person in whom it is vested.
  - ii. provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the person in whom the reserve is vested and provide a copy of the same; or
  - iii. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

**2.3.15** Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 that is managed by someone other than the Department of Conservation or a local authority?

No

- a. Address the following:
  - i. identify the activity, the reserve type under the Reserves Act, and the person or body who manages the reserve.

- ii. Provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the person or body responsible for managing the reserve and provide a copy of the same; **or**
- iii. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below; **or**
- iv. advise whether you consider the activity falls within the scope of [section 5\(5\)](#) of the Act, and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

**2.3.16** Does the project involve an activity that is:

- a. a prohibited activity under the [Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf \(Environmental Effects\) Act 2012](#) or regulations made under that Act?

No

- b. described in [section 15B](#) (Discharge of harmful substances from ships or offshore installations) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and is a prohibited activity under that Act or regulations made under it;

No

- c. prohibited by [section 15C](#) (Prohibitions in relation to radioactive waste or other radioactive matter and other waste in coastal marine area) of the Resource Management Act 1991

No

**2.3.17** Does the project involve a decommissioning-related activity as described in section 38(3) of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012:

No

**2.3.18** Does the project involve an activity undertaken for the purposes of an offshore renewable energy project?

No

## **2.4 Exemptions from requirement to provide agreement**

### **2.4.1 Mining activities under section 5(2)**

*The agreement of the relevant groups referred to under 3.5 Persons affected is not required for certain mining activities under [section 5\(2\)](#). If you think this might apply to your application, answer the questions below.*

**2.4.1.2** Is your application for an activity that is prospecting, exploration, mining or mining operations of Crown-owned minerals undertaken below the surface of any land or area?

No

**2.4.1.3** Provide details of the activity and identify the owner and occupier of the land and any relevant details concerning the land or area (such as whether it is identified Māori land)

**2.4.1.4** Explain the extent, if any to which your activity may be likely to cause any damage to the surface of the land or any loss or damage to the owner or occupier of the land.

**2.4.1.5** Explain the extent, if any to which your activity will be likely to have any prejudicial effect in respect of the use and enjoyment of the land by the owner or occupier of the land.

**2.4.1.6** Explain the extent, if any to which your activity will be likely to have any prejudicial effect in respect of any possible future use of the surface of the land, and if no such effects are anticipated, please explain why.

### **2.4.2 Activities on land proposed to be the subject of a land exchange**

*The agreement of relevant groups referred to in (subsection 5(1)(a) of the Act) is not required if section 5(5) applies. If you consider this section may be relevant to your application, complete the below.*

**2.4.2.1** Is the reserve on which the activity is to occur proposed to be the subject of a land exchange?

N/A

**2.4.2.2** Is the reserve a Crown-owned reserve?

**2.4.2.3** Are the person or persons responsible for managing the reserve in place because of a Treaty settlement?

**2.4.2.4** Provide any supporting details which may be relevant for your responses to the above questions.

## **2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24**

*Complete this section if you wish to seek a ministerial determination under section 23 or section 24 that your project is not an ineligible activity.*

### **2.5.1 Determination in relation to linear infrastructure on Māori land under section 23**

**2.5.1.1** Is your application seeking a determination under [section 23](#) (linear infrastructure on certain identified Māori land)

No

Provide the following information:

**2.5.1.2** Confirmation that the activity is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure (and identify which it is)

**2.5.1.3** Confirmation that the above construction (or operation of) will be undertaken by a network utility operator that is a requiring authority, and that that same party is the applicant for the necessary approvals, providing details of the same.

**2.5.1.4** Confirmation that the activity would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land (and identify that land)

**2.5.1.5** Provide information on the rights and interests of Māori in that land

**2.5.1.6** Provide an assessment of the effects of the activity on those Māori rights and interests and on the relevant land.

### **2.5.2 Determination in relation to existing electricity infrastructure under section 24(2)**

**2.5.2.1** Is your application seeking a Ministerial determination under [section 24\(2\)](#) (in relation to maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of existing electricity infrastructure on certain Schedule 4 land or in a national reserve)

No

Provide the following information:

**2.5.2.2** Confirmation that the activity is the maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of existing electricity infrastructure.

**2.5.2.3** Confirmation that the activity would occur on eligible land, as defined in section 24(3).

**2.5.2.4** Advise whether the activity would materially increase the scale or adverse effects of the existing electricity infrastructure and provide an explanation of the same.

### **2.5.3 Determination in relation to new electricity lines under section 24(4)**

**2.5.3.1** Is your application seeking a determination under [section 24](#) (the construction and operation of new electricity lines on eligible land (as defined in [schedule 4](#) excluding land classified as a national park or listed in subsections 2, 4, 5(a), 7 or 8 of that schedule)?)

No

Provide the following information:

**2.5.3.2** Is the activity the construction and operation of new electricity lines? (provide any necessary details)

Would the activity occur on eligible land (and identify which category of eligible land);

**2.5.3.3** Provide the requested information for each alternative site considered for the construction and operation of the new electricity lines:

**2.5.3.4** A description of the alternative site.

**2.5.3.5** A statement of the anticipated and known financial cost of undertaking the activity on the alternative site.

**2.5.3.6** A description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of undertaking the activity on the alternative site.

**2.5.3.7** A description of the anticipated and known financial cost and practicality of available measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for the anticipated and known adverse effects of the activity on the alternative site.

**2.5.3.8** A description of any issues (including financial cost) that would make it impractical to undertake the activity on the alternative site.

**2.5.3.9** An assessment of whether it would be reasonable and practical to undertake the activity on the alternative site, considering the matters referred to above.

## **2.6 Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process**

*Here you must explain how the project meets the referral application criteria ([section 22](#)). Please consider and respond where relevant, to each question.*

*If the project is planned to proceed in stages, you must explain how each stage meets the referral application criteria.*

*If a part of the project is proposed as an alternative project, you must explain how each stage meets the referral application criteria,*

- 2.6.1** The criteria for accepting a referral application is that the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits. Explain how this project satisfies the criteria:

The Project delivers regionally significant flood management infrastructure (550,000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity) that responds directly to the 2023 Auckland Anniversary floods which caused two fatalities and severe damage across the Wairau catchment. The Project reduces extreme rainfall flood risk by 30%, protects critical regionally and nationally significant infrastructure, and addresses a demonstrated and urgent community safety need.

Refer also to the answers to question below concerning the specific considerations identified in s 22(2)(a) of the Act, as well as to the discussion contained in the document titled 'Supporting Information for a Referral Application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024'. The latter document includes discussion of how the proposal presents additional relevant matters under s 22(2)(b) in relation to the Project's significant proposed environmental enhancement.

- 2.6.2** Explain how referring the project to the fast-track approvals process:

- 2.6.2.1** Would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and

The FTA Act process reduces consenting timeframes significantly, enabling construction by September 2027 – a potential time saving of at least two years, and potentially longer, compared with the normal RMA process. This consolidated approach provides certainty for a complex multi-consent application (RMA, NES-CS, NES-F, Wildlife Act), and delivers urgent flood management infrastructure potentially years earlier than standard processes would allow – noting the risk of delay associated with standard consent processes with merits appeals to the Environment Court and the possibility of further appeals to the superior courts.

- 2.6.2.2** Is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process

Referring the Project to the fast-track approvals process is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process. Several matters are highlighted in this regard:

- Technical matters (hydrology, engineering, ecology, planning etc) fall within established and well understood disciplines.
- Comprehensive technical assessments and management plans will be provided to support the substantive application (preliminary assessments accompany this referral application) in accordance with best practice.
- The applicant is suitably resourced (noting also the central government funding contribution) and has extensive experience with delivering major infrastructure.
- No novel legal or policy questions anticipated.
- The substantive application will therefore be complete and well-

supported.

- The Project is broadly supported by Mana Whenua, in particular Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Paoa.
- The Project exemplifies appropriate FTA Act use – regionally significant infrastructure with demonstrated urgent need, clear public benefit, well-defined technical matters, and established assessment methodologies.

**2.6.2.3** Has the project been identified as a priority project in a central government, local government, or sector plan or strategy (for example, in a general policy statement or spatial strategy), or a central government infrastructure priority list?

*For example – a sector plan that specifically identifies the project including details such as location.*

Yes

a. Identify the plan, strategy or list (or any other relevant document).

The Project is assessed as meeting this criterion for the following reasons:

- The Blue-Green Network Ngā Wairau Project is listed in the 2025/2026 Auckland Council Annual Plan (Volume 1, page 22), confirming its status as a priority project in a local government plan.
- This formal recognition reflects the Council’s commitment to funding and delivering the Project in a timely manner to address urgent flood resilience needs identified following the 2023 severe weather events.
- In terms of whether the Project is recorded on a “central government infrastructure priority list”, the applicant notes that central government has approved a Crown funding contribution of 62% of the total project costs.
- The letter of support from National Infrastructure Funding and Financing states that the “timely delivery of this project is a high priority for Crown under the Auckland North Island Weather Events funding agreement between Crown and Auckland Council” (Appendix F-1).

**2.6.2.4** Will the project deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Yes

a. Explain how the project will deliver this.

The Project satisfies the first aspect of this criterion by delivering regionally significant flood management infrastructure through approximately 550,000m<sup>3</sup> of additional flood storage capacity.

During the 2023 Auckland Anniversary floods, the Wairau catchment experienced severe flooding and damage. Two people lost their lives in the catchment. Severe damage occurred in:

- Residential areas of Tōtara Vale, Sunnynook and Nile Road; and
- Commercial areas on Wairau Road; and areas upstream of A F Thomas Park.

These fatalities and the widespread damage demonstrate that the flood risk is not theoretical – it is real and has already resulted in loss of life. The communities affected remain vulnerable to similar events until this

infrastructure is delivered. The Project directly addresses this demonstrated natural hazard risk, and supports recovery from the 2023 events by providing permanent flood management infrastructure. Enables the continued functioning of existing regionally and nationally significant infrastructure.

The Project satisfies the second aspect of this criterion by enabling the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure.

The Project also satisfies this aspect of the criterion:

- The Project has critical nationally significant infrastructure immediately adjacent to the site, namely the Transpower substation and Vector electricity lines, which provide key power supply to the North Shore Hospital and the entire North Shore area, while the Transpower assets support power supply to Northland as part of the national grid.
- Vector's letter of support (Appendix F) describes the Wairau Zone Substation as a strategic asset linking Transpower's transmission network to Vector's electricity network supplying the North Shore, and notes that it was significantly damaged by flooding in early 2023.
- The Project also has critical nationally significant infrastructure immediately adjacent to the site, namely the Northern Motorway (State Highway 1).
- As noted in the summary of NZTA's letter of support (Appendix F), the Project will reduce climate-related flood risks to State Highway 1 (particularly in a 1% AEP event) – infrastructure NZTA accurately describes as “nationally important”.
- The Project has regionally significant wastewater infrastructure within the site that are strategically important assets for Watercare (Wairau Branch Sewer, Milford Branch Sewer and the Silverfield Storage Tank).

**2.6.2.5** Will the project increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, or contribute to a well-functioning urban environment (within the meaning of policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020). If yes, explain how the project will achieve this.

The Project is assessed as meeting this criterion as, although housing is not proposed, the works will contribute to a well-functioning urban environment under Policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD).

There are three aspects to this:

- The first aspect relates to climate resilience: the Project directly engages with Objective 4 and Policy 1(f) of the NPS-UD as the works will improve resilience to the likely current and future effects of climate change.
- The second aspect relates to climate change: the Project directly engages with Objective 8 of the NPS-UD as the works will improve resilience and reduce risk to flooding in the present day and under accepted climate change scenarios.
- The third aspect relates to accessibility and open space: the Project directly engages with Policy 1(c) of the NPS-UD, which relates to “good

accessibility for all people between housing, jobs, community services, natural spaces, and open spaces, including by way of public or active transport”. It does so by:

- o Creating 14.9 ha of wetland providing natural space and ecological amenity, with a dual open space with informal recreation around the proposed wetland.
- o Retaining the remainder of the site (30.7 ha) for sport and active recreation consistent with the underlying zone. This proposal has the opportunity upon reinstatement of the reserve to create an open space environment that would benefit multiple needs within the community.
- o Providing walking and cycling connections adjacent to the Northern Motorway and linking to Northcote Road, enhancing active transport accessibility.

The Project exemplifies resilient urban design that accommodates both infrastructure and community amenity within a single asset, contributing to a well-functioning urban environment that is both accessible and climate resilient.

#### **2.6.2.6** Will the project deliver significant economic benefits, and if so, how?

Section 22(2)(a)(iv) allows the Minister to take into account whether a project will deliver “significant economic benefits” when assessing the overall requirement in s 22(1)(a). It is considered here as one contributory factor among the suite of s 22(2)(a) matters relied on in this section, alongside the additional relevant matters addressed under s 22(2)(b).

In this respect, the Fast-Track Panel for the Waihi North project observed in its recent draft decision that the term “significant”, in the context of “deliver significant economic benefits”, does not require appreciable (or “game-changing”) changes to national or regional GDP or to tax revenues. Rather, it is an indication of scale within the relevant regional context. The Panel also clarified that “regional” is not a reference to the boundaries of a regional council but is to be construed in a more general sense – in that case, the area in and around Waihi.

The economic evidence addressed below demonstrates that the Project can reasonably be expected to deliver meaningful economic benefits to the Wairau catchment and the Auckland region at this regional scale.

Two economic assessments prepared by MartinJenkins (MJ) accompany this referral application and are included at Appendix H:

- (a) The first, from August 2025, provides a peer review of a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) undertaken by WSP for the Project. The August

report calculated the benefit cost ratio (BCR) by comparing two scenarios: one where AF Thomas Park included flood-protection wetlands, dry detention areas, and related amenities, and one where no flood mitigation was carried out. The BCR presented in the August report ranged from 0.5 to 1.4. It was presented using a range to avoid overstating the level of certainty because the design of the flood protection was at concept stage. The August report noted that a comprehensive CBA would be developed and that this should result in a narrower BCR range because of greater certainty about the inputs.

(b) The second, from November 2025, builds on that review in response to a Formative peer review assessment (commissioned by the Council in its regulatory capacity) and updated information, and provides an indicative “reasonable BCR” to support decision-making at the referral application stage. A full and detailed CBA will be prepared next year as part of the substantive fast-track application.

Formative’s independent review – also included at Appendix H – supports MJ’s analytical approach and notes that several features of the August analysis – such as the discount rate, temporal sensitivities, climate-risk interpolation, and treatment of future development – tend to understate benefits. Formative considered that a baseline BCR “might be greater than 1.0” and that the BCR range is “likely to be mostly above 1.0” when updated assumptions are applied.

In the November 2025 MJ report, following feedback from Formative, MJ replicated one of the scenarios used to develop the BCR range in the August report, to produce what it describes as a “BCR that could be reasonably expected” at this stage. This scenario results in a BCR just over 1.0, meaning quantified benefits exceed costs.

Based on the two MJ reports, the Project can reasonably be expected to generate economic benefits of real and material significance at the regional scale.

These benefits include avoided fatalities and injuries, avoided residential property and infrastructure damage, reduced disruption to households and businesses, and improved continuity of essential services. The human impacts documented in the MJ November report underscore the significance of these avoided losses: the 2023 events resulted in two fatalities within the Wairau catchment and six across Auckland, with the economic cost of lost life in the catchment alone estimated at \$16.6–\$25 million based on standard Value of Statistical Life measures.

For completeness, the application does not depend on this criterion. Economic benefits under s 22(2)(a)(iv) are just one of several considerations relevant to assessing significant regional or national benefits under s 22(1)(a). Nevertheless, the available evidence indicates that the Project's BCR is likely above 1, meaning quantified benefits outweigh quantified costs. Again, a full CBA will be completed in 2026 to support any substantive fast-track application.

**2.6.2.7** Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture, and if so, how?

**2.6.2.8** Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum, and if so, how?

**2.6.2.9** Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions, and if so, how?

**2.6.2.10** Will the project support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards, and if so, how?

This criterion is assessed as being strongly met by the Project. The Project is fundamentally an initiative that will support climate change adaptation by reducing risks arising from natural hazards and supporting the recovery from the 2023 severe weather events. As noted, the 2023 Auckland Anniversary floods resulted in two fatalities in the Wairau catchment, along with severe flooding and damage across residential and commercial areas including Tōtara Vale, Sunnynook, Nile Road, and Wairau Road. This event demonstrated that the flood risk to these communities is not a remote possibility. Without the proposed flood management infrastructure, it is anticipated that similar weather events will produce similar severe outcomes.

The proposal directly responds to the risk of climate change and natural hazards through the management of flooding hazards. The approximately 550,000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity is designed to manage extreme rainfall events that are becoming more frequent and severe under climate change projections. Providing this flood storage, slowly releasing floodwaters downstream:

- Lowers the flooding risk from the 'main' Wairau Creek by 30% in an extreme rainfall event;
- Reduces the exposure to 'high danger flood risk' for 19 dwellings, 5 commercial buildings and reduces flood risk for 200 other homes;

- Reduces the risk of flooding across 10 ha of residential properties, three retirement villages, as well as road flooding to Nile Road, Waterloo Road and Alma Road and road access to schools and North Shore Hospital;
- Significantly reduces risk to other existing nationally critical infrastructure, such as nationally significant NZTA and Vector/Transport assets, and regionally significant Watercare assets. It also reduces the risk not only of property and infrastructure damage, but also the risk of injury and loss of life.

The Project represents an urgent and appropriate flood management infrastructure response. It provides the permanent solution necessary to support recovery from the 2023 events, since communities cannot fully recover while remaining vulnerable to similar future events.

**2.6.2.11** Will the project address significant environmental issues, and if so, how?

**2.6.2.12** Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies, and if so, how?

The Project is consistent with this criterion, due to close alignment with local and regional planning and spatial strategy documents:

- National Policy Statements

The Project aligns with the NPS-FM, the NPS-IB and the NZCPS.

- Auckland Unitary Plan - Regional Policy Statement

The Project is consistent with key RPS objectives and policies including in the following sections of the AUP(OP):

- o B2 Urban Growth and Form (well-functioning urban environments, climate resilience);
- o B3 Infrastructure (resilient and effective infrastructure delivery);
- o B7 Natural Resources (freshwater quality protection); and
- o B10 Environmental Risk (natural hazard risk reduction, contaminated land management).

- Auckland Unitary Plan - Regional and District Plan Provisions

The Project aligns with relevant objectives and policies across key chapters including water quantity and allocation (E2), lakes/rivers/streams/wetlands (E3), land disturbance (E11/E12), vegetation and biodiversity (E15), infrastructure (E26), and natural hazards and flooding (E36).

- Strategic Planning Documents

The Project is consistent with Auckland Plan 2050 (Auckland's spatial plan under s 79 of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009), particularly outcomes relating to environment and cultural

heritage, homes and places, and being responsive and future-focused. The Project also aligns with Auckland's Climate Plan, delivering climate adaptation infrastructure that reduces natural hazard risks and builds community resilience.

The Project is listed in Auckland Council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan as a priority project.

The Project is consistent with the Kaipātiki Local Board Plan 2023, which is a strategic plan that guides local board activity, funding and investment decision, particularly outcomes relating to the natural environment and the built environment and the people living in Kaipātiki. The Project also aligns with the Kaipātiki Local Park Management Plan, which provides direction on Kaipātiki local park use, protection and development.

The Project demonstrates strong consistency across the planning framework hierarchy. Further detail on planning document consistency is provided in Section 7 document titled 'Supporting Information for a Referral Application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024'.

## Section 3: Project details

*Remember: at this stage only a general level of detail is required, enough to inform eligibility to use the fast-track approvals process.*

For construction activities, please state the anticipated commencement and completion dates.

The works are scheduled to commence in September 2027 to coincide with the earthworks season (October to March). The proposed works will be undertaken across three earthworks seasons. It is anticipated that the flood resilience works will require two earthworks seasons, followed by the reserve reinstatement works that will require a planting season (May to September) and an earthworks season (over 3 years excluding maintenance).

### 3.1 Approvals required

*Applications must specify all of the proposed approvals sought but only need to provide a general level of detail about each proposed approval, sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application.*

*For each proposed approval an applicant must be eligible to apply for any corresponding approval under a specified Act. For example, if an approval is for a notice of requirement under the RMA, the applicant for that approval would need to be a requiring authority.*

*Applications for approvals under a specified Act, as required by in [section 13\(4\)\(y\)](#), are covered below in 3.8 Specific proposed approvals.*

#### 3.1.1 Outline the approvals sought under the Resource Management Act 1991.

At this stage, we understand consent will be required under the rules listed below. This list is not exhaustive and is based upon the concept design and information available to date. The consent triggers will be confirmed as developed design progresses. This may include further consent triggers.

The approvals required for the Project under the RMA include:

- Construction of a wetland (section 9);
- Vegetation alteration and removal within the riparian area (section 9);
- Tree trimming, alteration, works within the protected root zone, and tree removal within an Open Space Zone (section 9);
- Earthworks greater than 2,500m<sup>3</sup> and 2,500m<sup>2</sup> (section 9);
- Earthworks greater than 50,000m<sup>2</sup> where land has a slope less than 10 degrees outside the Sediment Control Protection Area (section 9);
- Earthworks greater than 2,500m<sup>2</sup> within the Sediment Control Protection Area (section 9);
- Earthworks that do not comply with the earthworks standards (section 9);
- Diversion of an unnamed stream to a new course and associated disturbance and discharge (section 13);
- Reclamation of an unnamed stream (section 13);
- Dewatering associated with a groundwater diversion (section 14);
- Diversion of groundwater caused by an excavation (section 14);
- Construction noise and vibration that do not comply with a permitted activity standard (section 9);
- Disturbing land containing elevated levels of contaminants (sections 9 and 15);
- Construction and operation of infrastructure within a 1% AEP floodplain and a flood hazard area (section 9);
- A temporary construction laydown area (section 9);
- Reclamation of an unnamed stream (under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) (regulation 57);
- Works within or close to natural wetlands (under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) (regulation 45); and
- Disturbance of contaminated land (under the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) (regulations 9).

The Project involves modifications to an existing dam at A F Thomas Park that was previously consented under resource consent 33083 (Council Reference). This consent authorises the damming and discharge of water under sections 14(1) and 15(1) of the RMA at A F Thomas Park and remains in force until 31 October 2040. The proposed flood resilience works will modify this existing consented dam, potentially including reducing the dam height, increasing the flood storage capacity, and providing an additional spillway.

Refer to Section 5 of the document titled 'Supporting Information for a Referral Application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024' for further details.

### **3.1.2** Outline the approvals sought under the Conservation Act 1987

Not applicable

**3.1.3** Outline the approvals sought under the Reserves Act 1977

Not applicable

**3.1.4** Outline the approvals sought under the Wildlife Act 1953

The Project ecologist has noted (at page 7, Appendix K) that an authority may be required under the Wildlife Act 1953 to manage, relocate, or disturb protected fauna. Fauna surveys are currently underway and will be completed in the next couple of months to confirm the presence and location of protected species on site. Based on preliminary desktop assessments and habitat characteristics and initial site visits, protected herpetofauna (including copper skink and potentially ornate skink) may be present. Further surveys will inform the specific Wildlife Act authorities required.

**3.1.5** Outline the approvals sought under the National Parks Act 1980

Not applicable

**3.1.6** Outline the approvals sought under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

Not applicable

**3.1.7** Outline the approvals sought under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

Not applicable

**3.1.8** Outline the approvals sought under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012

Not applicable

**3.1.9** Outline the approvals sought under the Crown Minerals Act 1991

Not applicable

**3.1.10** Outline the approvals sought under the Public Works Act 1981

Not applicable

**3.1.11** *Only applicable if more than one applicant:* Provide a statement of which approvals are proposed to be held by which applicant.

Not applicable

**3.1.12** Where there are any particular eligibility requirements to apply for an above approval; identify what they are, who the relevant applicant is, and confirm that

the relevant applicant meets those requirements (including providing any necessary supporting information or documentation to evidence this).

Not applicable

**3.1.13** Are there any other types of consents, certificates, designations, concessions, and other legal authorisations (other than contractual authorisations or the proposed approvals) and you consider are needed to authorise the project (including any that may be needed by someone other than you as the applicant(s)). Provide details on whether these have been obtained.

Not applicable

## **3.2 Project stages**

**3.2.1** If the project is planned to proceed in stages, provide: No

1. A statement of whether the project is planned to proceed in stages, including:
  - a. an outline of the nature, scale and timing of the stages; and
  - b. a statement of whether you intend to lodge a separate substantive application for each of the stages.
    - i. If a substantive application is intended to be lodged for each stage, address the questions under the section (Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process) for each stage of the project

## **3.3 Alternative project**

**3.3.1** If the project is proposed as an alternative project, provide: No

1. A statement of whether a part of the project is proposed as an alternative project in itself; and
  - a. Describe that part of the project; and
  - b. Explain how that part of the project proposed as an alternative project meets the referral assessment criteria in [section 22](#) of the Act.

## **3.4 Adverse effects**

**3.4.1** Describe any anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment.

Refer to Section 6 of the document titled ‘Supporting Information for a Referral Application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024’. All anticipated and known potential adverse effects can be avoided, remedied and/or mitigated. The Project will not involve any significant adverse effects on the environment.

**3.4.2** Provide a statement of any activities involved in the project that are prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991, and identify the relevant prohibited activity provision.

No prohibited activities under the RMA are proposed.

### **3.5 Persons affected**

**3.5.1** Provide a list of the persons, groups and/or entities who you consider are likely to be affected by the project.

*The list should include, as relevant, local authorities, relevant Māori groups (as set out at [section 13\(4\)\(j\)\(ii\)-\(vii\)](#) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024), persons with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 198; and if the project includes a land exchange, the holder of an interest in the land that is to be exchanged by the Crown (see [Consultation requirements for referral application](#)).*

Key stakeholders for the proposal include iwi authorities (the applicant is working in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Pāoa), Auckland Council (including the Regulatory Department, Parks and Community Facilities Department, the Urban Forest Team and Area Operations team in the Parks and Community Facilities Department), Watercare Services Limited (a Council Controlled Organisation), the Kaipatiki and Devonport-Takapuna Local Boards, Members of Parliament (MPs Dan Bidois (Northcote) and Hon Simon Watts) , leasing tenants (North Shore Takapuna Golf Limited, Eventfinda, Shore Archery Club Incorporated, Sunnybrae Bowling Club Incorporated and Hato Hone St John. Adjacent landowners located on the western side of AF Thomas Park, Transpower, Vector and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

**3.5.2** Provide a summary of any consultation undertaken with the above persons and/or groups who you consider are likely to be affected by the project, and any other groups required to be consulted with under [section 11](#) of the Act, **and** how the consultation has informed the project.

A summary of the consultation is provided at Section 3.5 of the document titled 'Supporting Information for a Referral Application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024'.

**3.5.3** List any Treaty settlements that apply to the project area and provide a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements.

No Treaty settlements apply to the site.

**3.5.4** If relevant, detail any principles or provisions in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 that would be invoked by the project and identify which aspects of the application trigger or otherwise invoke these requirements.

No principles or provisions in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 are relevant to the application.

**3.5.5** Will the project be located on land returned under a Treaty settlement?

No

**3.5.6** Provide evidence of written agreement by the owners of the land returned.

**3.5.7** Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the project:

Not applicable

**3.5.8** Provide information identifying any parcels of Māori land, marae, or identified wāhi tapu within the project area:

Not applicable

### **3.6 Legal interests**

**3.6.1** Provide a description of any legal interests you or any others applying, have in the land on which the project will occur, including a statement of how that affects your ability to undertake the work.

The applicant, Auckland Council is the legal owner of the site.

### **3.7 Other matters**

**3.7.1** Have any activities included in the project, or any that are substantially the same as those involved in the project, previously been the subject of an application or a decision under a specified Act?

Please note the term 'application' includes a notice of requirement and any other means by which a decision may be sought under a specified Act.

Yes

**3.7.2** If an application has been made, provide details of the application.

Not applicable

**3.7.3** If a decision has been made, also provide the outcome of the decision and the reasons for it.

Refer to Section 5.1 of the Supporting Information document for a list of existing approvals held by the applicant. In particular, the project involves modifications to an existing dam at A F Thomas Park that was previously

consented under resource consent 33083 (Council Reference). This consent authorises the damming and discharge of water under sections 14(1) and 15(1) of the RMA at A F Thomas Park and remains in force until 31 October 2040. The proposed flood resilience works will modify this existing consented dam, potentially including reducing the dam height, increasing the flood storage capacity, and providing an additional spillway. A copy of the consent decision is provided at Appendix I. Apart from the dam consent, there are no other previous applications or decisions relating to activities that are the same as or substantially similar to those specifically involved in this Project.

**3.7.4** Provide a description of whether and how the project would be affected by climate change and natural hazards:

The purpose of the project is to support climate change adaptation by enhancing flood resilience for downstream Milford residents, many of whom were severely impacted during the Auckland Anniversary floods in 2023.

It is designed to accommodate projected increases in rainfall intensity and the frequency of extreme weather events resulting from climate change. The project specifically accounts for the anticipated effects of a 3.8°C rise in temperature and its influence on rainfall patterns. It offers robust flood protection across all rainfall event magnitudes and is not influenced by rising sea levels.

*Provide the additional details requested below as relevant to your application.*

**3.8 Specific proposed approvals**

**3.8.1 Approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991**

**3.8.1.1** *Resource consents*

If your application is seeking a consent for an activity that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, including an activity that is prohibited under the Act, provide the information below:

- An assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement, any relevant national environmental standards and, if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Refer to Section 7 of the document titled ‘Supporting Information for a Referral Application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024’.

- Information on whether, to the best of your knowledge, there are any existing resource consents relevant to the project site to which RMA [section 124C\(1\)\(c\)](#) (existing consent would need to expire to enable the approval to be exercised) or RMA [section 165ZI](#) (space already occupied by the holder of an aquaculture permit) would apply if the approval were to be applied for as a resource consent under that Act

Not applicable to the project.

**3.8.1.2** *Resource consents where the project includes standard freshwater fisheries activities*

If your application is seeking a resource consent and your project includes a [standard freshwater fisheries activity](#), provide the information requested below:

- If an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), provide a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.  
Not applicable to the project.
- Indicate whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.  
Not applicable to the project.

**3.8.1.3** *Designations*

If your application is seeking a designation or an alteration to an existing designation for which a notice of requirement would otherwise be lodged under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide the information below:

- An assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement, any relevant national environmental standards, or, if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.  
Not applicable to the project.

**3.8.1.4** *Designations where the project includes a standard freshwater fisheries activity*

If your application is seeking a designation or an alteration to an existing designation and your project includes a [standard freshwater fisheries activity](#), provide the information requested below:

- If an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), provide a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.  
Not applicable to the project.
- Indicate whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.  
Not applicable to the project.

**3.8.1.5** *Change or cancellation of conditions*

If your application is seeking a change or cancellation of resource consent condition that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide:

- Information about whether the change or cancellation of the condition is material to the implementation or delivery of the project.

Not applicable to the project.

### **3.8.1.6**      *Certificates of compliance*

If your application is seeking a certificate of compliance that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide:

information that demonstrates the activity that the certificate of compliance is intended to cover can be done lawfully in the location without a resource consent.

Not applicable to the project.

## **3.8.2 Approvals relating to Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977, Wildlife Act 1953, and National Parks Act 1980**

### **3.8.2.1**      *Concessions*

For applications seeking a [concession](#) that include a lease, answer the following:

- Will the lease be for a term (including any renewals that will, or is likely to, be more than 50 years?  
No
- Will the granting of the lease trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return?
  - If you answered yes to both a. and b. above, provide evidence that the applicant has written agreement from the holder(s) of the right of first refusal or [right of offer or return](#) to waive that right for the purposes of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

### **3.8.2.2**      *Land exchanges*

For applications seeking an approval for a land exchange involving conservation land, provide the details below:

No

- A description of both land areas proposed for exchange (for example, maps showing areas and location, addresses and legal descriptions where possible)
- The financial value of the land proposed to be acquired by the Crown

- A brief description of the conservation values of both pieces of land, including an explanation of why the exchange would benefit the conservation estate.
- If the land exchange would trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return, provide evidence that the applicant has written agreement from the holder of the right of first refusal or right of offer or return to waive that right for the purpose of the land exchange
- Provide sufficient detail in respect of both land areas to confirm that no part of any land to be exchanged by the Crown is land listed in [Schedule 4](#) or a reserve declared to be a national reserve under [section 13](#) of the Reserves Act 1977.

### 3.8.3 Approvals relating to complex Freshwater Fisheries activities

If your application is seeking an approval or dispensation that would otherwise be applied for under regulation [42](#) or [43](#) of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 in respect of a [complex freshwater fisheries activity](#) provide the information requested below:

- Whether an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), and a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.  
Not applicable
- Whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.  
Not applicable

### 3.8.4 Approvals relating to [Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf \(Environmental Effects\) Act 2012](#)

If your application is seeking a marine consent that would otherwise be applied for under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Act 2012, provide the information requested below:

- Any information relating to whether the Minister for Conservation is an affected person.  
Not applicable
- If the applicant or the proposed holder of the marine consent has already applied for a consent under the EEZ Act in relation to the project, provide:
  - Details of any application made;
  - An explanation of any decisions made on that application; and
  - Any information that Minister may consider under [section 22\(6\)](#) (comparison of activity against current or likely use of the area).

Not applicable

- Additional information (in a summary form) about compliance or enforcement action taken against the applicant or the person who is identified in the application as the proposed holder of the marine consent by the EPA under the EEZ Act.

Not applicable

### **3.8.5 Approvals relating to Crown Minerals Act 1991**

#### **3.8.5.1**      *Access arrangements*

For an approval for an access arrangement that would otherwise be applied for under section 61 or 61B of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, provide:

- Information that confirms the applicant or the person identified in the application as the proposed holder of the access arrangement complies with [section 59\(1\)](#) and (2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (which applies as if a reference to an access arrangement under that Act were a reference to an access arrangement under this Act) including;
  - Evidence that the applicant or person has provided each owner and occupier of the relevant land a notice in writing of their intention to obtain an access arrangement; and
  - Evidence that the notice complies with the requirements in [section 59\(2\)](#) of the Crown Minerals Act, and any matters required by regulations. =

Not applicable

#### **3.8.5.2**      *Mining permits*

For an approval for a mining permit that would otherwise be applied for under [section 23A](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, provide the information requested below:

- A copy of the relevant exploration permit or existing privilege to be exchanged for a mining permit that entitles the holder to mine a Crown-owned mineral.

Not applicable

- The name and contact details of the proposed permit participants and the proposed permit operator.

Not applicable

- A proposed work programme for the proposed permit, which may comprise committed work, committed or contingent work, or both.

Not applicable

- Evidence of the technical or financial capability of the proposed permit holder to comply with and give proper effect to the work programme.

Not applicable

- Information about the proposed permit holder’s history of compliance with mining or similar permits and their conditions.

Not applicable

- The proposed date on which the substantive application is intended to be lodged (if your referral application is accepted) in accordance with [section 42\(11\)](#).

Not applicable

- If the authorised person proposes to provide information under [section 37](#) (to the relevant chief executive), the date on which the person intends to provide that information.

Not applicable

- The proposed duration of the permit.

Not applicable

### **3.8.5.3** *Mining permits for petroleum*

If the proposed approvals include a mining permit for petroleum, provide:

- A map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be the same area as the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made), and the extent of the resource and reserves to which the development plan relates.

Not applicable

- The resources and reserves relating to the project, estimated in accordance with the Petroleum Resources Management System.

Not applicable

- A high-level overview of the following:
  - the proposed field development plan;
  - the proposed date for the commencement of petroleum production;
  - the economic model for the project;
  - the proposed duration of the proposed mining permit and;
  - decommissioning plans.

Not applicable

### **3.8.5.4** *Mining permits for minerals other than petroleum*

If the proposed approvals include a mining permit for minerals other than petroleum, provide:

- A map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be the same area as the area over which the mining permit application is

intended to be made), and the extent of the resource and reserves to which the development plan relates.

Not applicable

- For minerals other than gold or silver, a report or statement confirming the ownership of the minerals targeted

Not applicable

- Information on whether the application will be for a [Tier 1 or Tier 2 permit](#).

Not applicable

- An estimate of the mineral resources and reserves relating to the project, including a summary on acquisition of the data and the data underpinning the estimate (such as information on sample locations, grade, and geology). For a Tier 1 permit application the resources and reserves relating to the project are to be estimated in accordance with a recognised reporting code such as JORC or NI 43-101.

Not applicable

- An indicative mine plan.

Not applicable

- A high-level overview of the following:
  - the proposed mining method;
  - the proposed date for the commencement of mining and estimated annual production;
  - the economic model for the project;
  - the status of or anticipated timing for completing any pre-feasibility or feasibility studies;
  - the proposed methods for processing mined material and handling and treating waste and;
  - anticipated plans for mine closure and rehabilitation.

Not applicable

## Section 4: Authorisation

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true and correct.

I confirm that I am authorised to make this application - Yes

I have provided a copy of the application with all contact details redacted - Yes

I understand that all actual and reasonable costs incurred in relation to this application by MfE, EPA and other central and local government agencies will be recovered from me

in accordance with [section 104](#) of the Act, and the [Fast-track Approvals Cost Recovery Regulations 2025](#) - Yes

**Signature:** *Vesa Barron*

**Date:** 12/4/2025

**Name:** Vesa Barron

## Section 5: Attachments

List any documents submitted with the application.

- *Remember: include a copy of your application with all contact details redacted.*

Attachment number	Document name	Author	Document version

## Referral application checklist

Use this checklist to confirm you have completed all sections of the referral application form.

<b>Section 1: Applicant details</b>	Yes
1.2 & 1.3 Agent's evidence of authority to represent the applicant(s) - if applicable	No
1.4 Compliance and enforcement history	Yes
<b>Section 2: Referral application summary</b>	Yes
2.1 Project name	Yes
2.2 Project description and location	Yes

2.3 Ineligible activity	Yes
2.4 Exemptions from requirement to provide agreement	Yes
2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24	Yes
2.6 Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process	Yes
<b>Section 3: Project details</b>	Yes
3.1 Approvals required	Yes
3.2 Project stages	Yes
3.3 Alternative project	Yes
3.4 Adverse effects	Yes
3.5 Persons affected	Yes
3.6 Legal interest	Yes
3.7 Other matters	Yes
3.8 Specific proposed approvals	Yes
<b>Section 4: Authorisation</b>	Yes
<b>Section 5: Attachments</b>	Yes