

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 1 July 2025

Name:

Organisation: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-49410-X6J7D2

Tēnā koe

I refer to your request received on 27 May 2025:

- We request you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to the Taranaki VTN Fasttrack application relating to your assessments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi.
- We request that you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to the Taranaki VTN Fasttrack application relating to your assessments connected to our iwi and hapū of Ngāruahine.
- We request that you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to taiao environmental impacts pertaining to the Taranaki VTN Fasttrack application.
- We request that you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to the associated resource consent processes within your mandate as relates to any or all of the legal obligations, including Treaty principles clauses and taiao environment aspects, of the Resource Management Act, the Crown Minerals Act, the EEZ Act, and any Treaty-Accords or associated Deeds of Recognition, Protocols, and Relationship Agreements from the Ngāruahine Deed of Settlement.

On 28 May 2025, we asked you to clarify if the final part of your request related to the associated resource consent processes for the Fast-track Approvals Act or if your request more broadly related to all Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) policy documents.

We responded to the first three parts of your request on 30 May 2025, as your request was made under urgency. That same day, you clarified that the final question relates specifically to the associated resource consent processes for the Fast-track Approvals Act.

The information you have requested follows.

The Fast-track process operates across two agencies: the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and the EPA. Each agency is responsible for specific aspects of the process based on their respective

roles. The MfE assesses referral applications and provides advice to the Minister for Infrastructure to inform his decisions on referral applications.

The Fast-track team at the EPA provides administrative support for the substantive application process, including secretariat advice and support to the panel conveners and the expert panels who make a decision on substantive applications. More information is here: [Process overview | Fast-track website](#).

Information on the preliminary steps for resource consents is publicly available, via the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 legislation here: [Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 No 56 \(as at 30 May 2025\), Public Act Preliminary steps for application for resource consent – New Zealand Legislation](#).

Additionally, information is available on our website that outlines the process for the substantive application for resource consents and other approvals here: [Substantive application for resource consents and other approvals | Fast-track website](#).

As panel conveners are independent from the EPA, they can arrange participant conferences as part of the process to discuss expertise needed for the panel after an application has been deemed complete but before a panel is appointed. They also discuss the timeframes for processing the application with participants. This is discussed in a minute related to the *Bledisloe North Wharf and Fergusson North Berth Extension* project, and is publicly available here: [Minute 3 of the panel convener - 10 April 2025](#).

More information on the role of the Panel Convener and associate panel conveners is available here: [Panel convener and associate panel conveners | Fast-track website](#).

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via oia@fasttrack.govt.nz

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.fasttrack.govt.nz. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa nā



Michelle Ward
General Manager, Climate, Land and Oceans