File ref: FTAA-2604-1214

2 November 2026

Brent Pizzey
Christchurch City Council
By email - [redacted]

Tēnā koe,

Request for further information in relation to your application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

You lodged a substantive application, Implementation of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan, under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 16 October 2026.

Prior to referring a substantive application to an Expert Panel, the EPA must assess the completeness and scope of the application to ensure it complies with section 46(2) of the Act. To assist with making this assessment, under section 46(2A) of the Act the EPA may seek further information from you.

Request for Further Information

To inform the EPA's assessment of the application for completeness, please provide a response to the following matters:

Listed Project

- As the application is for a listed project, section 43(2)(c) requires that: "*it must contain the information that the applicant provided to the Minister when applying to have the project listed as a listed project and an explanation of how the substantive application is within the scope of the listed project".*

There are two components to the requirement of section 43(2)(c):

- Explanation of scope: This has been addressed in the application.
- Information provided to the Minister: The application does not appear to include the information provided to the Minister.

Please provide all the information that the applicant has provided to the Minister when applying to have the project listed under the Act.

Wildlife

Through mandatory consultation processes with the EPA, the Department of Conservation (DOC) has provided feedback regarding the proposed Complex Freshwater Fisheries approval and Wildlife Act approval for the project.

DOC considers that the following further information regarding the Wildlife Act approval could be provided as part of the application:

i. "Project area" and "proposed project area" are used inconsistently. Please clarify impact, salvage and release footprints, especially at Site 18 and future sites, and provide assessments and surveys that cover the entire proposed approval area.

ii. Please confirm species that the Wildlife Approval will apply to and clarify the varying numbers of animal estimates as discussed above.

iii. Please confirm stopping rules and provide measurable detail for triggers, and adaptive responses.

iv. Please clarify receiving-site readiness, carrying capacity, timing and interaction with separate authorisation 126114-FAU at Area A.

v. Please provide quantified habitat loss, effects of forest or wetland conversion on open lizard habitat, cumulative effects, other indigenous fauna, and comprehensively integrated ecosystem effects.

vi. Please provide quantified habitat-loss versus replacement calculation, demonstrated ecological equivalence, carrying-capacity assessment, minimum replacement area, secured permanent protection, or measurable basis for no net loss / no residual effects. Avoidance is not strongly secured before salvage.

Please provide any further information you wish to have considered for the purposes of the EPA's assessment under s 46(1) in response to these comments from DOC.

Responding to the Request for Further Information

Under the Act, you have until the end of the 20th working day from the date of this letter to provide a response to the EPA, which is 30 November 2026.

From the date of this letter, the 15 working day timeframe for the EPA to decide on completeness and scope of the substantive application ceases to run. The 15 working day timeframe will recommence once your response is received or after 30 November 2026, whichever is sooner.

If you wish to clarify any matter relating to the request, and the request was generated from the EPA's consultation with an administering agency or local authority, we suggest that you contact that administering agency or local authority directly before providing your response to the EPA.

If you require information from the EPA in relation to the request for further information, you may request that information from the EPA under section 46(2C) of the Act. Please send your request to projects@fasttrack.govt.nz.

The EPA intends to publish the information received from you in full, including your responses in our completeness memorandum, on the Fast-track website.

If you have any questions, please contact Mel Prescott, Application Lead by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Daya Thomson

Team Leader, Fast-track Applications