



Comments on project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

State Highway 1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus), FTAA-2512-1157

Contact Details	
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Introduction

1. New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (Applicant) has lodged an application for the State Highway 1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus) (project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the FTA Act).
2. The Applicant has applied for an archaeological authority as part of the substantive application.
3. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) was consulted prior to the Applicant lodging its first substantive application.
4. There are no listed heritage places located within the project area.
5. In accordance with section 53(2)(k) of the FTA Act, HNZPT has been invited to comment on the substantive application as the administering agency for the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
6. Minute 4 of the Expert Panel directed the administering agencies to demonstrate using track changes any departure from the conditions that were filed with the substantive application. The Minute specifically referred to the condition lists at 2C and 2D, which are designation and resource consent conditions. The archaeological authority conditions were included as 2F.
7. As discussed at the Project Overview Conference, HNZPT has worked closely with the Applicant in order to reach agreement on an appropriate condition suite for the archaeological authority should it be granted.

Comments on Application

Archaeological Authority

8. HNZPT has provided comment in relation to the archaeological authority in its s51 Report dated 17 April 2026.
9. In summary, HNZPT has recommended that the archaeological authority be granted subject to appropriate conditions.

10. There are two remaining matters that HNZPT provides comment on as follows:

Recommended Conditions

11. HNZPT appreciates the time and willingness of the Applicant to engage and considers this time and effort in reaching agreement, as far as possible, will assist the Panel in its decision-making task.
12. The parties have reached agreement in respect of all but one condition, being condition 2 – the Archaeological and Cultural Sites Management Plan (management plan). The parties agree that there must be a management plan and what that management plan must include. The Applicant is currently working to finalise that management plan in order to have that certified by HNZPT prior to the granting of the authority, and thus reflected in the conditions.
13. Currently, there is some disagreement as to “deemed certification” in relation to the management plan condition, however the parties are still in discussion, and are confident in reaching agreement on this one remaining matter, if the full certification condition is required.
14. In the event the management plan is certified prior, then HNZPT can advise the Panel via memorandum and note this in its section 70 comments, once invited.
15. To assist the Panel, we have attached a word version of the conditions that we recommend at **Appendix A**. As the majority of the conditions are agreed, there are only two conditions with track changes applied:
 - Condition 2 (the management plan condition); and
 - A new condition relating to the requirement to have a person approved in writing pursuant to section 45 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPT Act).

Section 45 Approved Person

16. The Applicant has included an application for approval of Dr Jeremy Habberfield-Short to be the person nominated to undertake an activity under the authority.
17. HNZPT advised in its s51 Report that we were awaiting additional information in order to make that recommendation. That information was a final report for a similar roading project that was completed over five years ago. As this final report has not been provided, HNZPT is not satisfied that Dr Habberfield-Short has sufficient skill and competency, or that he is fully capable of ensuring that the proposed activity is carried out to the satisfaction of HNZPT, as required by clause 5(3)(a).
18. As such, HNZPT cannot recommend that Dr Habberfield Short be approved as we are not satisfied that the requirements of clause 5(3) of the FTA Act or s45(2) of the HNZPT Act have been met.
19. As above, due to there being no approved person recommended, new condition 5 is required. This has been discussed with the Applicant.

Conclusion

20. HNZPT **continues to recommend** that the application for approval of an archaeological authority is granted, subject to conditions set out in **Appendix A**.
21. HNZPT **does not recommend** that the nomination for Dr Jeremy Habberfield-Short as approved person to carry out the activity be approved.