

FTAA-2609-1295

5 October 2026

Nicola Bishop
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
By email: [REDACTED]
Copy to: Hannah Liell
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, Mill Road Project – Stage 1, under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 21 September 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:

1. Scope

The EPA must make an assessment of the proposed substantive application scope against the scope described in the Minister's referral decision.

In addition to the works identified in the referral decision, the substantive application includes:

- Signalisation or upgrades to traffic signals at five existing intersections – Diorella Drive, Hollyford Drive/Everglade Drive, Goodwood Road, Hilltop Road, and Murphys Road;
- Intersection upgrades at Bartells Drive and Alexia Place; and
- Construction of three new bridges (within the Rural Section) where the road alignment crosses the existing Mill Road, Puhinui Gully, and Cheesman's Bush.

We have also identified that the application also proposes changes to Tōtara Park.

Please explain the rationale for the inclusion of these aspects which have not been expressly identified in the Project description contained in the Minister's referral decision. Please also clarify whether the applicant considers these works to be within the scope of the referred Project and provide the basis for that view.

2. Department of Conservation

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 the following information is **not present** in relation to the Complex Freshwater Fisheries approval:

- **Water flows:** *“Water flows are required under Clause 3 of Schedule 9(a)(v). No flow rates/hydrological data is provided in either the Substantive Application Part F Freshwater Fisheries Act Approval or in the Assessment of Freshwater and Wetland Ecology application documents”.*
- **Operating regime:** *“The operating regime is required under Clause 3 of Schedule 9(a)(vi). A comparison of the current to natural flow regime is presented in the SEV data in Table 7.6 within the Assessment of Freshwater and Wetland Ecology. Information on the current operating regimes at the sites is not present in the application documents”.*
- **Water quality and quantity:** *“The water quality and quantity in the surrounding habitat (at the proposed structure location, upstream and downstream is required under Clause 3 of Schedule 9(c). Tables 5-1, 5-2, and 5-3 in the Substantive Application Part F Freshwater Fisheries Act Approval has a column titled “Clause 3(c): The water quality and quantity in the surrounding habitat (at the proposed structure location, upstream, and downstream)” that is populated with SEV data, habitat, and stream and catchment values but does not contain water quality or quantity data (e.g., nutrients, sediment, E. coli, or flow rates)”.*

DOC considers that the following information is **not in sufficient detail** in relation to the Complex Freshwater Fisheries approval:

- The application does not provide sufficient detail of the freshwater species and values present as required by Clause 3 of Schedule 9(b).
- Table 5-1 in Part F Freshwater Fisheries Act approval lists species that are present or assumed to be present. Other application documents state that Fish populations were inferred from eDNA surveys, the NZFFD and historical electrofishing survey data.

It is unclear if the freshwater species and values present are adequately described for each river reach affected by the proposed structures. The application includes eDNA and New Zealand Freshwater Fisheries Database (NZFFD) results but does not expand on the methodology or detail the sites sampled. Clarification is required on the number of replicates of eDNA and where samples were obtained from in relation to the affected reaches. The number of eDNA replicates and the locations they were collected from are necessary to accurately determine the species and values present.

DOC considers that the following further information could be provided as part of the application:

- **Complex Freshwater Fisheries approval:** *“In relation to the complex freshwater fisheries approval, the dimensions of the structures are provided but further detail around the stream dimensions (primarily width) are needed to ensure the dimensions are appropriate under the National Environmental Standard – Freshwater 2020 (NES-F) clause 70”.*
- **Complex Freshwater Fisheries approval:** *“In relation to the complex freshwater fisheries approval, the slope of the structure or fish facility is described in the application in terms of placement in the stream, but the placement within the proposed work zone is not provided in detail”.*
- **Wildlife Act approval:** *“In relation to the wildlife approval, the Wildlife Approval report discusses its consideration of avoiding, minimising and mitigation impacts, referring to the Lizard Management Plan Section 5-12. Residual effects on lizards are listed in the Terrestrial Ecology Effects report in Section 5.6.4, Table 5-8. Despite having a ‘moderate’ residual impact on lizards, they have not been incorporated into the offsetting and compensation calculations. It is assumed that the 36.6% positive benefit to impacted ecosystems will adequately address any residual effects to lizards. Section 6.3.2 of the Terrestrial Ecology Effects report describes lizard habitat replacement and enhancement that will be undertaken to address residual effects associated with habitat loss to lizards, with 5.18ha dedicated to a ‘lizard habitat matrix’. The Panel may wish to request further information in relation to residual effects on lizards”.*

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 3 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 3 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 [REDACTED] Application Lead by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Daya Thomson

Team Leader, Fast-track Applications