

**To:** Aurecon

**Date:** 30 September 2021

**Attention:** Helen McLean

**Ref:** 61714- 1B1

**Subject:** **Papakura to Drury Stage 1B1 – Ecological Response to comments from the Department of Conservation.**

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This memorandum responds to the ecological comments by the Department of Conservation (DOC) on the Papakura to Drury South State Highway 1 Improvements – Stage 1B1 (EPA reference FTC00015).

DOC commented that there were gaps with respect to specific species management regarding

- Avoiding the migration season for species present
- Consideration of the present of kākahi and kōura
- Ensuring fish passage where required.

All of the freshwater stream sites were assessed for freshwater fauna, including native freshwater fish, kākahi and kōura. No kākahi or kōura were present and the only native fish that were recorded were occasional shortfin eels and one post whitebait banded kōkopu (in the Park Estate wetlands). Native fish recovery is occurring in all of the freshwater habitats to ensure potential adverse effects on native fish are mitigated.

The application refers to works in eight freshwater habitats. All of the stream habitats (Site 1, 2, 3, 5a, and 5c) and the wetland at Site 5b are at the end of a piped network with no upstream fish habitat, therefore fish passage is not required. As there is no upstream habitat at these sites, there are no adults spawning and minimal (if any) migration of whitebait during the spring. The remaining freshwater habitats are a swale (Site 5) that only flows during and immediately after rain events, and an intermittent pond at Site 11 that alternatively dries and fills during the year, neither of which supports upstream fish habitats or onsite fish habitat and therefore fish passage, fish spawning and fish migration is not a requirement or consideration.

The works near the CMA in the Ngakaroa Stream relate to a bridge and fish passage will not be impeded. Spawning and migration of native fish were assessed and considered at the site in the ecological assessment, including the potential for avoidance behaviour by migrating whitebait species during the late winter spring, with recommendations to minimise access in the CMA or estuary during construction. The bridge is the technical boundary of the CMA with mangroves and salt water influence extending well beyond the bridge, and with the inanga spawning habitat identified 600m upstream of the bridge. The works will not affect spawning or the spawning habitat.

Yours sincerely  
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