



MP for Mt Albert

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

- 9 OCT 2020

John Hardie
Chairperson, Rāpaki Expert Consenting Panel

rapakifasttrack@epa.govt.nz

Tēnā koe e John

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on consent application for a Papakāinga Development in Rāpaki (LP13)

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 2020 seeking my comments on the consent application for a Papakāinga Development in Rāpaki, Christchurch by Te Mahi Korowai Trust under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act).

I support the principle of the application, i.e. to enable Ngāi Tahu whānau to use and develop ancestral land to support their social, cultural and economic aspirations.

I note that under the Act you must also seek comment from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT). HNZPT has provided me with a copy of the comments they made to your Panel which I have reviewed.

According to HNZPT, the project site is within an archaeologically rich area. To ensure any archaeological values are appropriately managed, and to avoid any project delays should archaeological sites be discovered during the works, HNZPT has recommended that the applicant takes a proactive approach. HNZPT recommends the following condition, should consent be granted:

The proposal must be assessed by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist to determine whether it will or may affect archaeological sites, and recommend whether an archaeological authority under the HNZPTA 2014 should be obtained prior to works starting.

I have nothing further to add to HNZPT's comments and look forward to the opportunity to review the draft conditions should your Panel decide to grant the consent.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Ardern', written over a white background.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage