

Comment on the Te Ara Tupua – Ngauranga to Petone shared path Fast Track Application

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2. Comments on the Te Ara Tupua – Ngauranga to Petone shared path Application

Alan Webb
Chairperson
Te Ara Tupua Expert Consenting Panel

Tēnā koe Alan Webb,

Thank you for your 20 November 2020 invitation under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (**the Act**) to comment on the Te Ara Tupua – Ngauranga to Petone Shared Path consent application and notices of requirement (**the application**).

I generally **support** the Waka Kotahi's (**the Applicant**) application for the following reasons:

Purpose of the Act

1. The project will **urgently promote employment** to support NZ's recovery from economic and social impacts of COVID-19—
Design and construction will provide an estimated **125** people with direct employment. Indirect jobs will also be created for **330** employees (such as suppliers and sub-contractors). The project therefore will have substantive economic benefit for the Wellington region where COVID-19 has disrupted the construction industry.
2. The project will promote **sustainable management of natural and physical resources**—
The shared path is high-quality infrastructure that will make a difference in New Zealanders' lives. Its benefits are manifest. In the strategic transport context it will provide an important missing link for active modes between two regional centres, that is a new, safe and viable option

for people to commute on foot or by cycling or electric scooter. The health benefits that accrue should be substantial.

The path embeds various cultural design elements and more over will allow mana whenua to reconnect with part of Te Whanganui-a-Tara that is highly significant to iwi.

The scale of the activity within the coastal environment suggests that potential adverse effects could be significant. However, after taking into account the project's overall design, the Applicant's mitigation measures and proposed conditions that address impacts on the receiving environment, the expected effects will be considerably less.

Grounds on which the Application may be declined (schedule 6, clause 34 of the Act)

The Application does not appear inconsistent with any national policy statement. It seems inaccordance with key areas of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 — coastal processes, ecology, the Treaty of Waitangi, natural character, public open space and walking access, coastal hazards, use and development, and reclamation.

The Application also appears consonant with section 6 (Treaty of Waitangi) and Treaty settlements. This is reflected in the Applicant's partnerships with Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the role of mana whenua in developing the project, and that the temporary use of Honiana Te Puni Reserve is at the invitation of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust.

Applicant's proposed conditions

As expected the conditions proposed for the application are extensive but are not more than is necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate the potential and actual adverse effects on the coastal environment, ensure the works are implemented essentially are described, and deliver the expected benefits.

The conditions promote the purpose of the Act and have strong sustainable management justification (and cultural outcomes). They appear fair and reasonable and to offer a high level of certainty.

For example, to manage sedimentation effects arising from seabed disturbance and placement of four offshore seabird roosts, a floating siltcurtain is to be deployed around the each workzone (paragraph 4.3.1 of the Assessment of Environmental Effects). Although the final design and location of the bird roosts may vary, the control of sedimentation effects (by siltcurtains during construction) is fixed through conditions GC 1, CA 5, and CA 9.

For these reasons, I support granting the application, with the notices of requirement confirmed or modified, with or without conditions, as you see fit.

Yours sincerely


Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Land Information