



# Fast-track consenting.

Statement of credentials • September 2024

## Fast-track consenting experience

We have the largest resource management/environmental and Māori law team in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our team has considerable experience in consenting (and re-consenting) significant infrastructure and housing projects under both the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (**COVID-19 Fast-track**) and the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 Fast-track consenting process (**NBEA Fast-track**).

Fast-track processes can be complex and require a well-resourced, experienced and agile team adept at working effectively under intense timeframes to deliver the best outcomes.

Buddle Findlay also has extensive experience in advising on all aspects of infrastructure and housing projects including, Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953 approvals, governance, financing, contracting/procurement, construction contracts and litigation.

## Fast-track processes work highlights

Our team has advised clients on a number of significant infrastructure and housing projects under the COVID-19 Fast-track:

- Advising NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi on the \$312 million Ngā Ūranga to Pito-One (Ngauranga to Petone) shared path section of Te Ara Tupua, the first Government COVID-19 Fast-track 'listed' project. The project will provide a high-quality active transport mode connection between Wellington and the Hutt Valley and enhance the corridor's resilience to disruption events affecting the operation and use of SH2 and the railway
- Advising NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi on the \$665 million Papakura to Bombay SH1 Upgrades Stages 1B1 and 1B2. This project involves additional motorway lanes, a new shared use path, upgrades to the Drury Interchange and connections to the local network. Stage 1B1 was one of the first Fast-track approvals granted in Auckland
- Advising Kāinga Ora - Homes and Communities on its application for resource consents for upgrades to the wastewater line in Bothamley Park, Porirua, an infrastructure upgrade to support residential intensification in Porirua
- Advising Auckland Transport on its application for resource consents for Stage 4 of the Glen Innes to Tāmaki Shared Use Path

- Advising Contact Energy on its consent application for the Southland Wind Farm. The wind farm is expected to produce between 900 and 1,200 GWh per year of electricity, which is enough electricity to power 150,000 households
- Advising the Ministry for the Environment on the Fast-track Approvals Bill
- Our team has extensive experience advising on Treaty settlement and related matters in the context of Fast-track processes
- Acting for affected parties on the Botanic Riverhead proposal, a project to establish a retirement village (housing, retirement village and commercial development) and the Kaiwharawhara Wellington Ferry Terminal Development.

In respect of the NBEA Fast-track processes, our team is also advising Lightsource bp on the Glorit Solar Farm Fast-track consent application. This application is for a proposed 150 megawatt photovoltaic facility, located adjacent to the Kaipara Harbour, north Auckland. The proposed solar farm is expected to supply enough electricity for 33,000 homes and create 200 construction jobs.

Several members of our team have chaired panels for several COVID-19 Fast-track proposals ranging from housing developments to renewable electricity proposals.





## First of its kind: Te Ara Tupua’s journey through the COVID-19 Fast-track

Buddle Findlay advised NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (**Waka Kotahi**) on Te Ara Tupua.

Te Ara Tupua is a complex project that is very important for the government, providing a high-quality active transport mode connection between Wellington and the Hutt Valley, improving mode choice and enhancing the corridor’s resilience to potential disruption from damaging storms and sea-level rise, which can have serious impacts on the operation and use of this key corridor for Wellington, which contains SH2 and the railway.

As the first government “listed project” in Schedule 2 of the COVID-19 Fast-track, the Buddle Findlay team assisted Waka Kotahi in successfully navigating what was at the time, a novel and untested fast-track process. Advising on the preparation of the notices of requirement and resource consent applications required by Waka Kotahi and the Fast-track consenting pathway required complex analysis of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 and the appropriate consenting of activities in sensitive coastal landscapes.

The project needed to carefully balance several competing factors, including significant investment in existing connecting infrastructure, and effects on the coastal marine area.

In granting the necessary approvals the decision-maker praised Waka Kotahi’s application as of “extremely high quality” and described Waka Kotahi’s process of engaging with iwi as “an exemplar of how that should occur”.

## Key contacts

For team contacts, please refer to our [environment and resource management expertise page](#).

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