

# Fast-track Approvals Act

## Navigating New Zealand's accelerated consenting pathway

The Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) establishes a single, integrated approvals pathway for projects delivering significant regional or national benefits. FTAA replaces the fragmented approvals landscape for qualifying projects with a single expert-panel-led process.

### **The Act operates in two stages:**

- A Ministerial referral
- A substantive application to the EPA

The FTAA typically delivers referral decisions in around 4–6 months and substantive approvals in 6–9 months; a material compression on conventional consenting timeframes. Projects already listed in Schedule 2 of the FTAA progress directly to the substantive application stage.

# Navigating the FTAA

## Opportunities, challenges and keys to success

### Opportunities and Challenges

The FTAA creates real delivery advantages for qualifying projects; however, it comes with genuine complexity and risk that applicants must understand from the outset.

#### On the upside:

- FTAA consolidates required approvals across multiple statutes and agencies into a single, integrated process. This includes significantly compressed timeframes that deliver real programme benefits.
- It explicitly elevates the regional and national benefits of projects above their adverse effects - it is purpose-built for large-scale infrastructure and development.

#### The real implications:

- It operates on a full user-pays basis. Applicants need to be well resourced and anticipate the significant costs associated with the process.
- It is relatively inflexible. Timelines are tight, scope change is difficult, and decisions can only be appealed on points of law.

Getting your application right from the outset is vital, as this is effectively a one-shot process.

### Aligning your project for success

To get the best out of the FTAA process applications must be carefully drafted, supported by a compelling benefits case and robust technical assessments, and experience is proving that solid stakeholder engagement strengthens applications and outcomes rather than slowing the process down.

Our experience is also proving that an expert and experienced project team with resource capacity is vital to success.



# Our services

## From strategy to approval

### Getting the pathway right

Helping clients assess whether FTAA is the right fit and develop a considered strategy before committing to the process:

- FTAA eligibility assessment and pathway strategy
- Benefits case development and project positioning

### Building a robust application

Preparing referral and substantive applications that are well-evidenced, clearly framed and built to withstand panel scrutiny:

- Referral and substantive application preparation
- Effects assessment and benefits case articulation
- Integrated technical assessment across planning, engineering and environmental disciplines

### Engagement that strengthens outcomes

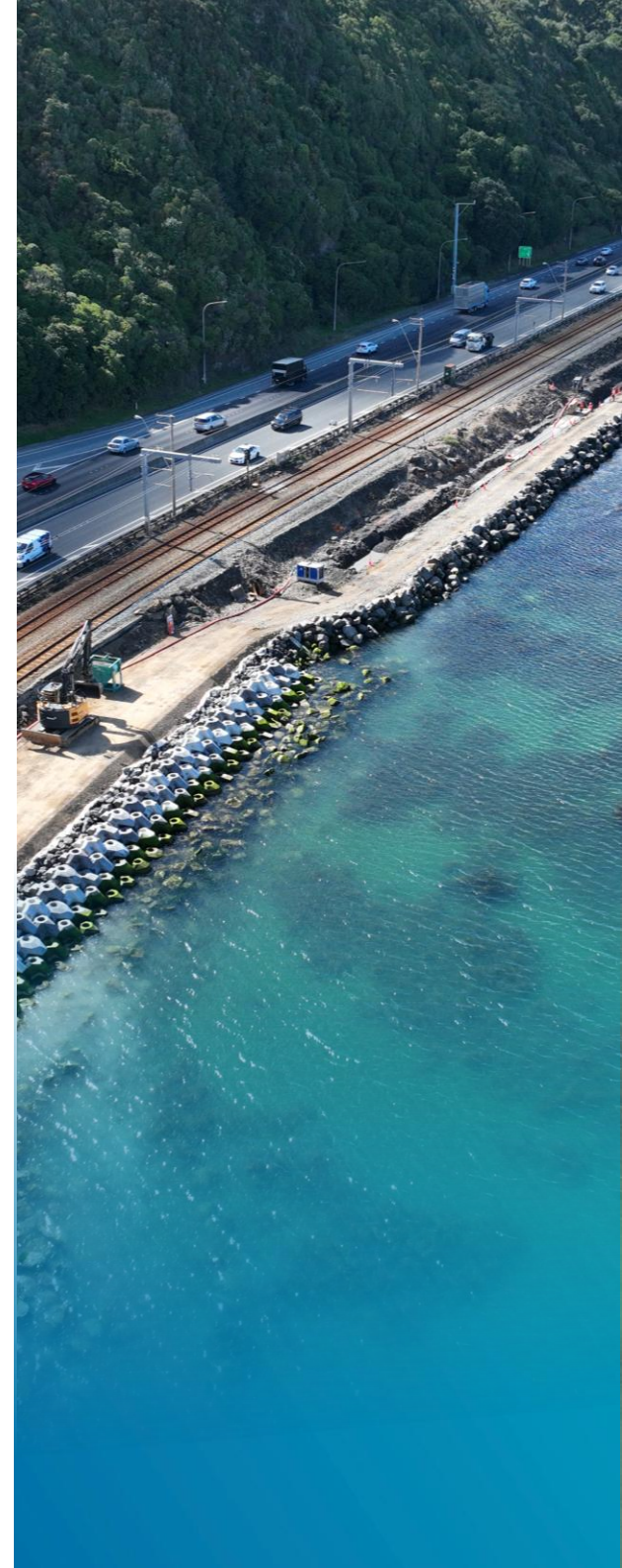
Designing and leading stakeholder and mana whenua engagement that builds support and improves application quality:

- Stakeholder and mana whenua engagement strategy and delivery
- Relationship management with the EPA, key agencies and interested parties

### Process management that delivers results

Keeping the complex and time-critical process on track through the regime's demanding requirements:

- End-to-end application process management, interested party responses, and information requests
- Conditions negotiation and drafting
- Expert witness preparation and hearing support



# Our FTAA experience

We bring a depth of experience and learnings from leading successful FTAA applications through all stages of the process.

## **Drury Quarry expansion | Stevenson Aggregates** **Listed Project | Substantive Application - Approved**

T+T supported Stevensons through the full FTAA pathway for the Drury Quarry expansion project - one of the first projects to achieve a substantive approval under the new regime. Our team led planning, application preparation and coordination of expert inputs, and supported the process through to panel approval.

## **SH1 Woodend Bypass | NZTA** **Listed Project | Substantive Application - Approved**

T+T led planning for NZTA's SH1 Woodend Bypass through the FTAA process, and provided geotechnical and specialist environmental inputs (ecology, hydrogeology, contaminated land, air quality & acoustics). Our team led preparation, lodgement and processing of the substantive application, securing the full suite of approvals required for the Road of National Significance, with a practical and streamlined set of conditions to support efficient delivery.

## **Redvale Landfill expansion | WM NZ** **Referred | Substantive Application**

T+T supported Waste Management through the referral process for this regionally significant waste infrastructure project, securing a referral decision and leading planning, technical and engagement with the EPA and interested parties. The application is now progressing through the substantive process.

## **Central & Southern Mine | Taharoa Ironsands** **Listed Project | Substantive Application**

T+T secured a listing for the Central and Southern block mine areas at Taharoa iron sand mine, and the substantive application is now progressing through the panel assessment process. T+T has been leading planning inputs and providing coordination of technical assessment across a complex range of planning, environmental and resource management issues.

## **Auckland Regional landfill | WM NZ** **Referral Application**

T+T is leading planning, technical and engagement with the EPA and interested parties for referral of the Auckland Regional Landfill project. The application addresses the regionally and nationally significant benefits of the project and describes the project and its effects.

## **Clevedon Quarry expansion | Stevenson Aggregates** **Referred**

T+T is leading planning and ecology on the expansion of Clevedon Quarry, including determining the consenting strategy, preparation of a successful referral application, undertaking all ecological field work and assessments and managing multi-disciplinary team of experts preparing the substantive application.

## **Petone to Grenada | NZTA** **Substantive Application**

T+T is providing planning, environmental, and engineering design inputs to the Transport Agency on the Petone to Grenada (P2G) project. P2G will create an efficient transport connection between southern Lower Hutt and north Wellington/Porirua to support economic growth and productivity, and housing development. Our work will see us complete preparation of the substantive application documentation for the P2G project.

## **Expert Advisory | Multiple Projects and Panels**

T+T has provided expert inputs to many FTAA projects across Aotearoa New Zealand, including directly to expert panels, contributing specialist knowledge from planning, engineering and environmental disciplines. This work has included inputs into projects spanning all aspects of the FTAA, including mining, land development, energy, and infrastructure in both feasibility stage and directly in the FTAA process.

# Contact us



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