

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni

MP for Kelston

Minister for Social Development and Employment

Minister for ACC

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Minister for Disability Issues



20 JUL 2021

Duncan Laing

Chair, Molesworth Street Office Development Expert Consenting Panel

Via email: molesworthfasttrack@epa.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Duncan

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on consent application for the Molesworth Street Office Development Project

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2021 seeking my comments on the consent application for the Molesworth Street Office Development Project by Prime Property Group under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act).

I support the intent of the project, being to construct a 12-storey office building on Molesworth Street, including a car park and ground floor retail space.

I note that under the Act you must also seek comment from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT). My officials have provided me with the comments HNZPT intend to make to your Panel.

I have reviewed HNZPT's comments and note their view that there has been insufficient archaeological assessment of the proposed development area. Given this, I support HNZPT's request for a condition of consent requiring an archaeological survey and assessment to be carried out prior to works commencing. I also support their request for an Accidental Discovery Protocol to be a condition of consent.

Given HNZPT's comments, I would appreciate the opportunity to review the draft conditions should your Panel decide to grant the consent.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'C Sepuloni'.

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage