

## **New legislation to fast track project consent to boost economy**

In yet another measure released from the Government to boost and support the New Zealand economy as it transitions out of lock down. The newest proposal introduces the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Bill, which promises to make it easier for eligible infrastructure and development to get through the approval process.

This will mean that, roading, walking and cycling tracks, rail, housing, new wetland construction and sediment removal from rivers would all benefit from a fast-tracked process and projects in these areas would have the opportunity to be completed sooner. These kinds of projects are known to boost available jobs and have the potential to employ people quickly, which is also a key element to the recovering economy.

Priority will be given to projects that alleviate housing challenges, encourage active transport or enhance the environment.

This new legislation, if passed, would not amend the [Resource Management Act 1991](#), but instead provide an alternative process for consents, which would then be repealed in two years. It is unclear at the moment what the eligibility criteria will be, but the legislation is expected to be passed in June.

Resources:

Fast-track consenting to get shovel-ready projects moving  
<<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/fast-track-consenting-get-shovel-ready-projects-moving>> 3  
May 2020

Bill to fast track projects that can boost employment and economic recovery  
<<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/bill-to-fast-track-projects>>