

## **KRRA Submission on the Fast Track Approvals Bill**

We the Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association, located north of Whitianga on the Coromandel Peninsula, oppose the introduction of the Fast Track Bill in its current form. It creates the potential for us to be excluded from having visibility of and inputting into projects that could significantly and negatively impact our community. It also limits and potentially negates the powers of our local and regional councils to act on our behalf.

In our recent 2023 survey the following principles and outcomes were agreed by our community as being the most important with 198 unique responses received. We are charged by our community with championing these outcomes through our local democratic processes. They are also incorporated in our Thames Coromandel District Council Mercury Bay North Community Plan 2020-2030.

- Ensuring our waterways are clean, healthy and functioning well
- Keeping Kuaotunu free from extractive mineral mining
- The creation of a safe cycling/pedestrian path that links Cemetery Rd, the village centre and Hilldale Crescent
- The management of residential & commercial development so that Kuaotunu retains its unique, small village feel
- The preservation of our pristine dark sky for future generations to enjoy
- Safe walking and cycling connectivity between Rings Beach & Matarangi
- A reduced speed limit on SH25 (from Cemetery Rd through to Hilldale Cres)
- A dedicated space for Kuaotunu's artists and creatives to showcase their talents

Based on the scope of the Fast Track Bill we believe that projects could be approved without our input where the majority of these principles and outcomes could be severely negatively impacted. It is essential that we retain our voice in the democratic process.

If there is a requirement to fast-track decisions, then the process should stick to existing fast track processes and not avoid due process as in this Bill.

KRRA 19th April 2024