



Key Request:

The City of Delta is urgently requesting the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship intervention to address significant delays in the permitting process under the Water Sustainability Act, which have severely stalled the MKB Delta Lands project and other critical developments. These delays, are threatening economic growth and investor confidence in the region.

Background:

The MKB Delta Lands project represents a significant economic opportunity for the City of Delta and the broader Metro Vancouver region. However, the project has been severely hampered by delays in the permitting process under the Water Sustainability Act, threatening its viability and potential to contribute to local and regional economic growth. These delays are not isolated but reflect a broader issue affecting projects that require complex changes in and around streams, which are critical to their development and success.

The MKB Delta Lands project, which promises to be a substantial economic driver, has been in limbo since its Water Sustainability Act application was submitted in August 2020. As of now, the project has been stalled, being on hold for over 1,400 days—ten times longer than the Province's committed review period of 140 days. This extensive delay is symptomatic of the broader administrative challenges associated with the Act, which is causing significant bottlenecks for projects that are essential to the economic vitality of Delta and the surrounding region.

These delays are not just a matter of administrative inconvenience; they have real and immediate impacts on economic development, job creation, and the

overall economic health of the region. The uncertainty and prolonged timelines associated with the Water Sustainability Act are creating substantial risks for developers and municipalities alike, leading to increased costs, missed opportunities, and a general slowdown in crucial infrastructure and economic development projects.

The City of Delta is calling for immediate provincial intervention to address these permitting process delays. There is a pressing need for the Province to streamline the administration of the Water Sustainability Act, particularly for projects like MKB Delta Lands that have the potential to deliver significant economic benefits. By returning to the originally committed 140-day review period, or implementing other process improvements, the Province can help ensure that critical projects are not unnecessarily stalled.

Resolving these delays is essential not only for the success of the MKB Delta Lands project but also for maintaining investor confidence and ensuring that Delta and Metro Vancouver can continue to grow and thrive. We urge the Province to take swift action to address these challenges, enabling the timely and efficient progress of projects that are vital to the future prosperity of our communities.