



Key Request:

The City of Delta requests the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship address the significant delays in the permitting process under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

Background:

The *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) was designed to modernize BC's approach to water management, but in practice, the permitting framework has become a significant barrier to timely project delivery. The MKB Delta Lands development, a project with major economic and employment benefits, took close to 4 years to receive conditional approval. These delays are introducing cost escalations, project risk, and uncertainty.

The City of Delta supports the environmental intent of the WSA; however, the current process is not meeting the needs of local governments or aligning with the Province's stated housing and economic objectives. The City has now met directly with the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship on four occasions to raise this concern, in addition to numerous meetings with Ministry staff. Despite repeated assurances over the past several years that improvements are underway, Delta continues to experience a lack of clarity on application timelines.

Reinstating the original 140-day review timeline or establishing clear service standards with appropriate accountability measures would help restore confidence in the WSA approval process. Prioritizing applications with significant public interest, such as those tied to environmental restoration or housing delivery, would further ensure the Act supports rather than hinders sustainable land use planning.

Without timely approvals, even the most strategically aligned projects remain at risk of indefinite delay. Streamlining the WSA is not about reducing environmental oversight. It is about making that oversight effective, predictable, and responsive to the pace of growth required across the province.