



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 3) 2021

Portfolio **Environment**

On 29 March 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment has decided under section 24 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act) to accept the applications for referral to a panel of the following projects:
 - 1.1 Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited's, Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project;
 - 1.2 Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health's, New Dunedin Hospital – Whakatuputupu;
- 2 **noted** that Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited's, Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18 of the Act, and is considered to help achieve the purpose of the Act by:
 - 2.1 generating employment by the creation of an average of 40 FTE jobs over an 18-month period covering engineering, design and construction;
 - 2.2 providing infrastructure that will contribute to improving economic and employment outcomes;
 - 2.3 assisting to improve environmental outcomes for air quality by lowering the level of emissions generated from combustion of natural gas at the Ballance Kapuni Plant;
 - 2.4 assisting to improve environmental outcomes for air quality and assist New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low-emissions economy (subject to a successful future transition to the use of the green hydrogen as a fuel in the transport sector);
 - 2.5 being likely to progress faster than would otherwise be the case under the standard processes of the Resource Management Act 1991;
- 3 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 3) 2021 (the Amendment Order) directs Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited to provide to an expert consenting panel cultural, landscape and visual, archaeological, ecological, traffic, acoustic, shadow flicker and significant hazardous facilities assessments as detailed in Appendix Four to the submission under CAB-21-SUB-0087;

- 4 **noted** that the Amendment Order directs an expert consenting panel appointed to consider Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited's, Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project to seek comments from six hapū of Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, the Taranaki Māori Trust Board, Transpower New Zealand Limited, Powerco Limited and Nova Energy Limited;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health's, New Dunedin Hospital – Whakatuputupu meets the eligibility criteria in section 18 of the Act, and is considered to help achieve the purpose of the Act by:
- 5.1 having positive effects on the social and cultural well-being of current and future generations;
 - 5.2 providing infrastructure to improve economic, employment and environmental outcomes, including the health and well-being of people and communities in the Otago-Southland region;
 - 5.3 generating employment via up to 827 FTE construction and design jobs, indirect jobs and associated housing demand for new workers in the region;
 - 5.4 providing short-term and longer-term economic benefits for people and industries affected by COVID-19 including the construction workforce and those living and working in the region;
 - 5.5 being likely to progress faster than would otherwise be the case under the standard processes of the Resource Management Act;
- 6 **noted** that the Amendment Order directs the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health to provide to an expert consenting panel transportation, urban, landscape and shading, construction noise and flood hazard assessments as detailed in Appendix Five to the submission under CAB-21-SUB-0087;
- 7 **noted** that the Amendment Order directs an expert consenting panel appointed to the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health's, New Dunedin Hospital – Whakatuputupu to seek comments from two Ngāi Tahu rūnanga via Aukaha Limited and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency;
- 8 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 3) 2021 [PCO 23666/5.0];
- 9 **noted** that on 27 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to waivers of the 28-day rule so that Orders in Council made under the Act can come into force as soon as they are notified in the New Zealand Gazette [CAB-20-MIN-0353];
- 10 **noted** that the Amendment Order will come into force on 2 April 2021.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet