



FTC #3: Application for referred project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – Stage 1 decision to 4 August 2020

Date Submitted:	6 August 2020	Tracking #: 2020-B-07082	K
Security Level	In-Confidence	MfE Priority:	Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment	Decision	10 August 2020

Actions for Minister's	Send out attached letters (if agreed and signed).						
Office Staff	Return the signed briefing to MfE.						
Number of appendices and attachments	 Titles of appendices: Letters from the Minister for the Environment to relevant Ministers of the Crown, local authorities and iwi. Request for further information letters from the Minister for the Environment to Transpower New Zealand Limited. 						

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal Author	Sara Clarke		
Responsible Manager	Sara Clarke	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Director	Liz Moncrieff	s 9(2)(a)	
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FTC #3: Application for referred project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – Stage 1 decision to 4 August 2020

Key Messages

- We are seeking your decision on one application for referral of a project to an expert consenting panel under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act), for Transpower New Zealand.
- 2. We have undertaken an initial (Stage 1) analysis of this application.
- 3. A summary of the analysis and our recommendation for the application is provided in Table A. You are the sole decision maker for this project (this is not in the Coastal Marine Area).

Action sought

4. Please indicate your decision on the recommendation for the application listed in Table A.

Signatures

Sara Clarke Manager Natural and Built System

Table A: Stage 1 initial assessment of project eligibility – projects where the Minister for the Environment is the only decision maker

Project to progress

				Assessment against the purpose of the Act							
Project details	Project description and location	Project Funding	Project eligibility criteria met [s18(3)]	Economic benefits and costs [s19(a)]	Effect on social and cultural wellbeing [s19(b)]	Likelihood project will progress faster under the Act [s19(c)]	Public benefit [s19(d)]	Potential for significant adverse effects [s19(e)]	Any other matters [s19(f)]	Recommendation	Decision
Application name 9 - Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project	To upgrade electricity transmission lines and construct and use land for a temporary Workers' Village.	This project has \$92m in funding allocated. Further due	Yes - subject to the comment below. We recommend	The application notes that this project will support the local workforce and will provide employment	The application acknowledges that the social impacts of a large influx of workers into a small community requires good	The applicant considers that the Act will allow the project to progress faster than the estimated 14-20 months under the	The public benefits of the project include; housing for the Workers' Village; assisting the transition to a low	The project has the potential for adverse effects including cultural, biodiversity, erosion and sedimentation, contaminated land	Transpower has consulted with industry on whether this project should proceed at this time. Feedback ranged from	a. agree to progress the Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project (CUWLP) – Project Works and Workers' Village to Stage 2 of the process. The project warrants further analysis because it has potential to achieve the purpose of the Act.	Yes/No
(CUWLP) – Project Works and Workers' Village Applicant Transpower New Zealand Limited	Located in a loop from Roxburgh north to Naseby, Livingstone, the Waitaki (including dams at Aviemore, Benmore, Ohau B and C) and to Twizel, and south	diligence will be carried out in Stage 2 but there are no concerns about funding for the project.	that you request information from the applicant and iwi on \$18(3)(b) as there is uncertainty about a small portion	opportunities in a region particularly impacted by the down-turn in tourism caused by Covid-19. The application provides accommodation	management. It also notes that iwi consultation has commenced. We recommend requesting further information on how the applicant will mitigate any social impacts of the	RMA. It seems likely that the Act consent process would be faster than the standard RMA process as multiple consents are required from	carbon economy and meeting NZ climate change targets; minimising the loss of low cost renewable electricity from hydro schemes, avoiding unnecessary	management, landscape and construction effects. Transpower has engaged relevant technical experts to assess the effects of the project and advise on	support to deferral due to uncertainty about the future of Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter and the need for further economic analysis. These matters are considered to be an issue for Transpower and the Electricity Commission rather than matters under	b. agree to seek further information from the applicant on meeting the requirements of s18(3)(b) in relation to whether works will be located within the Naseby Forest (land returned under a Treaty settlement) and whether these works have been agreed to in writing by the relevant land owner.	Yes/No
	through Cromwell and Clyde to Roxburgh. Proposed temporary Workers' Village located near Roxburgh/ Naseby. Land use and		of the project area which may cross land returned under a Treaty settlement.	for 100 temporary workers but remains silent on the number of new jobs created. Based on information provided economic effects appear positive although further	Workers' Village and the effects on mana whenua.	multiple consent authorities which increases risk of delay. Further information should be sought from relevant Councils on the potential timeframes for applications under the RMA.	spillage and increasing resilience of the electricity system. Considering the effects of the entire project through a single integrated planning process would enable	appropriate mitigation. Proposed mitigation could be included in any project referred to the EPA. Mitigation measures could also be addressed by conditions imposed by an Expert	the Act.	c. agree to seek comment from Ministers listed in s21(6) of the Act the Minister for Energy and Resources the Minister for State Owned Enterprises d. agree to seek comments from the relevant local authorities	Yes/No
	discharge permits are required for earthworks, vegetation clearance, formation of access tracks and construction and operation of the proposed Workers' Village.			information should be sought from the applicant.			greater consideration of the national significance of upgrades to the national grid as recognised through the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission.	Consenting Panel. We are satisfied that any significant adverse effects have the potential to be avoided, remedied or mitigated by conditions.		e. agree to seek comments from the relevant iwi organisations	Yes/No
				200			Signed:				1
	Hon David Parker Minister for the Environment Date										