



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020: Implementation Update and First Application for Referral to an Expert Consenting Panel

**Portfolio**                      **Environment**

On 7 September 2020, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act) has commenced;
- 2        **noted** that the Minister for the Environment has decided under section 24 of the Act to accept Transpower New Zealand Limited's (Transpower) Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project – Project Works and Workers' Village (Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project) for referral to an Expert Consenting Panel;
- 3        **noted** that Transpower's Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project is considered to help achieve the purpose of the Act and meets the eligibility criteria in section 18;
- 4        **agreed** that an Order in Council be prepared under section 27 of the Act to refer Transpower's Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project to an Expert Consenting Panel;
- 5        **noted** that the draft content for the Order in Council for Transpower's Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project is provided in Appendix 1 to the paper attached under CAB-20-SUB-0426;
- 6        **agreed** that a framework Order in Council be developed to support efficient drafting of future Orders in Council and to ensure they are readily accessible by the public;
- 7        **noted** that in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Act an Order in Council will specify:
  - 7.1      the name of each person that is authorised to apply for a resource consent relating to the project;
  - 7.2      a description of the project and the activities it involves;
  - 7.3      the approximate geographical location of the project;
  - 7.4      any provision necessary to give effect to the Minister's decision;
  - 7.5      a statement of the Minister's reasons for the decision as required by Schedule 3 of the Act;
- 8        **invited** the Minister for the Environment to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to achieve the policy decisions set out in paragraphs 4-7 above;

- 9 **authorised** the Minister for the Environment to approve any final details or technical changes required to give effect to the policy in the paper attached under CAB-20-SUB-0426;
- 10 **noted** that costs associated with lodging applications for resource consent or notices of requirement with the Environmental Protection Authority and consideration by a Panel will be met by the applicant.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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the Official Information Act 1982