

BRF-2131

15 September 2022

C/- Liana Gillan
Customer Relationship Specialist
Aurora Energy
Email: info@auroraenergy.co.nz

Dear Liana Gillan

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Brackens Ridge Project

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from Mount Soho Trust Limited to refer the Brackens Ridge Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The purpose of the FTCA is to promote employment to support New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

Aurora Energy may have an interest in the project as an infrastructure provider in the Arrowtown area and the potential for adverse effects on existing energy infrastructure. Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite Aurora Energy's written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2.

The above information is provided to you in confidence and as part of the statutory process set out in the FTCA. Please do not forward the application or request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant must provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of this process.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the referral

application. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or to discuss the application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Frame
Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team

Appendix:

A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Brackens Ridge Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Response template for written comments

Appendix A - Proposed project

| Project | Applicant | Details |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Brackens Ridge Project | Mount Soho Trust Limited | The project is to subdivide a 17.9 hectare site and construct a housing development at 175 McDonnell Road, Arrowtown, Otago. The project will create approximately 104 residential lots and up to 208 residential units (up to two units per lot). The application includes the associated infrastructure for the subdivision and development of the lots, including roading, walkways, street tree planting, reserves and constructing connections to three waters services. |