Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FTG-B

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-03 17:27:31

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Amuri Irrigation Company Limited

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Sara Black

3 What is your job title

Job title:
CEO

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:
s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

s 9(2)(a)

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

The proposed hydropower stations will be located 4 kilometres ('km') west (B1 hydro) and 14 km northeast (W1 hydro) of Culverden township respectively. The B1 hydropower station is located on the south bank of the Pahau River, a tributary of the Hurunui River. The W1 hydropower station is located on the west bank of the Lowry Drain, a tributary of the Waiau Uwha River. Sites are located at the end of AIC pipelines located within the Balmoral Forest adjacent to Tekoa Road and the existing Balmoral irrigation race. The land is owned by AIC shareholders and agreements are held that provide for easements for the land required to construct and operate hydropower stations.
The Sites are located within the Amuri Basin, a relatively flat, low-lying area of farmed land approximately 60km long and 20km wide. The basin is

elongated in a north-easterly direction and is bounded by hills to the north-west and south-east. The Sites are characterised by a gentle gradient, within developed irrigated land.
The source of the water is from the Hurunui River (Balmoral scheme) for the B1 hydropower station and Waiau Uwha River (Waiau scheme) for the W1 hydropower station. Water is taken via a diversion from the main stem of the relevant river. Flow is diverted through culverts into a canal, with the rate being diverted controlled by a radial gate. The canal enters the main sediment pond and water passes through a fish screen located at the end of the sediment pond, with the flow taken through the fish screen controlled by radial control gates. Water taken through the control gates continues down a main race and into AIC's pipe network.

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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

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Titles for Hydro application.pdf was uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Longbrook Dairy Limited and Willowbank Dairy Farm Limited Partnership

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

Amuri Irrigation Company Limited (AIC) has an easement for the pipeline and a signed agreement with the landowner to grant an easement in relation to the hydropower station sites. The land is owned by AIC shareholders and agreements are held that provide for easements for the land required to construct and operate hydropower stations.

AIC already holds the resource consents needed to divert, take and use water for hydropower generation during the irrigation season and to discharge water. AIC is applying to generate hydropower over winter months. The resource consents allow for the take and use of water from the Hurunui River and the settling pond at a rate of 5.258 m3 per second ('m3/s'), and 11.173 m3/s from the Waiau Uwha River and settling pond.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:
AIC Hydropower project

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

To generate hydropower from the Hurunui and Waiau Uwha Rivers to provide renewable energy for the community. Water will be taken via existing irrigation scheme infrastructure and energy generated year round.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

AIC proposes utilising its existing resource consents for the delivery of water to its shareholders via existing regionally significant irrigation infrastructure. This will be done by installing two hydropower stations to add complementary second use for existing infrastructure and deliver resilience to the North Canterbury communities power supply. Water will primarily be taken for irrigation and during periods when irrigation demand is below the consented rate of take, the unused water will be utilised for generating hydropower. AIC holds consents to take, store, use and discharge water as well as generate hydropower with unused irrigation water during the irrigation season (Sept-May).

The proposal is to authorise the use of water for hydropower generation over winter (Jun-Aug) and the associated discharge from the hydropower stations. The source of the water is from the Hurunui River (Balmoral scheme) for the B1 hydropower station and Waiau Uwha River (Waiau scheme) for the W1 hydropower station. Water is taken via a diversion from the main stem of the relevant river. Flow is diverted through culverts into a canal, with the rate being diverted controlled by a radial gate. The canal enters the main sediment pond and water passes through a fish screen located at the end of the sediment pond, with the flow taken through the fish screen controlled by radial control gates. Water taken through the control gates continues down a main race and into AIC's pipe network.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

Detailed design August - November 24
Procurement August 24 - April 25
Manufacturing and delivery of materials April 25 - Feb 26
Construction of powerhouse and plant installation August 25 - August 26
Commissioning June 26 - August 26

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

Resource Consent under Resource Management Act 1991

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

Hurunui District Council ('the HDC') and the Canterbury Regional Council ('the CRC')

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

Resource Consent Applications have been lodged with CRC for the use of water for hydropower generation over winter. No decisions have been made.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

No

Please explain your answer here:

No, aside from the resource consents that are needed from the CRC and the building consents that will be needed from the HDC.

AIC already holds existing resource consents for the diversion, take, use and discharge of water. A consent is held to use water for hydropower generation over irrigation season (typically September – May). The building consents cannot be sought until procurement has selected the hydropower plants to be used.

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

Milestone Planned date
Detailed Design August to November 2024
Procurement August 2024 to April 2025
Construction August 2025 to August 2026

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

• Hurunui District Council
• Canterbury Regional Council
• Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu
• Ngāi Te Tuahuriri Rūnanga
• Te Rūnanga o Kaikoura
• Department of Conservation
• MainPower
• North Canterbury Fish and Game

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

Landowner engagement
Both hydropower stations will be located on private land. The point of discharge into the Lowry Drain (W1 hydro) and Pahau River (B1 hydro) is within an area of riverbed that is not easily accessible by the public. AIC has met with both landowners on several occasions over a number of years to reach agreement with them over the proposed energy generation project.

Engagement with Ngāti Kuri and Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga
AIC is committed to understanding the cultural values that exist in and around the areas associated with the Proposal and is seeking to engage with and work with Tāngata Whenua to address any concerns and issues held.

AIC has engaged with both Ngāti Kuri and Ngāi Te Tūāhuriri. The following bullet points summarise the engagement that has occurred:
• A MOU was signed between Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Ngāi Tahu Farming and AIC on the 3rd of August 2021 ;
• AIC met with Ngāti Kuri on multiple occasions (virtually in March 2022, in person on the 18 January, the 3 May, 27 July and, 5 December 2023 and again in April 2024) to discuss cultural values and the proposal. Discussions focused on broader topics.
• AIC met with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngāi Tahu Farming in March 2023 and again on 25th March of 2024 to discuss the project; and

Engagement with Fish & Game North Canterbury
The following meetings have also been held with North Canterbury Fish & Game ('F&G'):
• Site visits were completed on the 22nd of March 2021 and on the 14th of February 2023. AIC and F&G staff were in attendance; and
o• The F&G CEO has provided helpful technical feedback to NIWA at meetings who are undertaking technical assessments for the proposal. As a result there has been a significant update to the original assessment lodged with the AEE.

Engagement with Mainpower
The proposed hydropower project will provide benefit to MainPower because there is limited energy generation within close proximity to their network and it would provide resilience in the event of a transformer failure at the Mouse Point GXP.

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Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

Not applicable

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

Statutory acknowledgement areas are listed in Schedules 14 to 77 of the Nga□i Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 ('NTCSA'). Schedule 21 of the Act states: "The statutory area to which this statutory acknowledgement applies is the river known as Hurunui, the location of which is shown on Allocation Plan MD 112 (SO 19848)". The river is located approximately 1.2 km south of the BWSF Site.

The NTCSA records that both Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga (whose rohe is, we understand, centred on Tuahiwi and extends from the Hurunui to the Hakatere River and inland to the Main Divide) and Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura (whose rohe extends from White Cliffs (which are to the south of Blenheim) to the Hurunui River and Southwest of the Main Divide) have cultural values associated with the area. However, no values have been associated with the project area specifically. Both Rūnanga have a shared kaitiaki (responsibility) and rights for the Hurunui River as a statutory acknowledgement area, meaning both Rūnanga have shared values and association.
Ngāi Tahu purchased the Balmoral Forest Estate from the Crown using economic redress provisions in the Deed of Settlement as an investment to restore tribal welfare. As a Settlement Asset located in the takiwā of Ngāti Kuri, Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura has a strong interest in ensuring that the property is developed in a manner that upholds Ngāi Tahu values and benefits future generations.

Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga
The Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan ('MIMP') records the values and areas of significance for six Tangata Whenua groups, one of which is Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga. The MIMP identifies that the entire Hurunui catchment is recognised by Tangata Whenua as possessing outstanding cultural characteristics and values. In particular the MIMP states that mahinga kai; natural character; wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga; hoka kura; the river mouth environment; and Ara tawhito ki pounamu are of significance. The following exerts from the MIMP explains these identified values:
Mahinga kai: The mahinga kai values of the catchment were particularly important to Nga□i Tahu parties travelling to the Te Tai Poutini. Traditionally the river was known for tuna and i□nanga. Raupo□ from the margins of the upper catchment lakes was used for making mokihi. The dried leaves of ti□ kouka, known as pahau, were used along with harakeke and mountain grasses to weave paraerae (sandals) for travellers, and the kauru, or pith of the tree was a food source. Harakeke was used to make clothing, baskets, nets, mokihi, and rope ladders. The NTCSA 1998 also recognises two Nohoanga in the catchment (Hoka Kura and the Hurunui River mouth), acknowledging the importance of the river as mahinga kai.
Cultural heritage values: Wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga values exist along the length of the river. The Hurunui River mouth is particularly rich in terms of archaeological evidence, as a moa hunter site occupied 700 years ago. Hoka Kura/Lake Sumner, the Waitohi River, and the gorges above the Mandamus confluence (including Ma□ori gully) are also areas of particular significance for their wāhi tapu status.

Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura
Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura Environmental Management Plan ('TRoKEMP') captures the project area within Okarahia ki te Hurunui. The TRoKEMP describes ngā take and ngā kaupapa associated with the lands, waters, mahinga kai and biodiversity within Okarahia ki te Hurunui. This includes the Okarahia (Hundalees) natural landscape, from Tu□tae Putaputa (Conway River) to the Hurunui, and inland to the main divide. The area includes the catchments of three large rivers: Tu□tae Putaputa, Waiau and Hurunui. Historically, the Hurunui River was treasured for its yield of customary resources, and as the

gateway for Ngāi Tahu to the pounamu resources of Te Tai Poutini. Today, the customary importance of the river remains for Tangata Whenua.

Mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and other taonga are said to be of paramount importance within the TRoKEMP, being the cornerstone of the spiritual, historical, cultural, social, and economic well-being of Ngāi Tahu. For Okarahia ki te Hurunui, the key issues are the ability of freshwater and soil resources to meet current and future demands. The TRoKEMP also states that Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura aim to protect the productive capability and life supporting capacity of these resources.

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

Yes

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Upload your assessment if necessary:
No file uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

Upload file:
NIWA assessment_July 2022 HYDRO.pdf was uploaded

Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

i. There are no NES's that are relevant to the Proposal;
ii. The NPS-Renewable Energy Generation (2011) is relevant to the Proposal; and
iii. The NPS-FM (2020) is relevant to the Proposal;
iv. The NPS-IB (2023) is relevant to the Proposal; and
v. The Site is not located in the coastal environment. Therefore, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is not relevant to the Proposal.

NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION (2011)
The NPS-Renewable Energy Generation recognises the importance of increasing renewable energy generation to tackle the challenge of climate change. The proposal will directly implement this NPS and increase security of supply for the local network operator.

NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT (2020)

The NPS-FM recognises the national significance of fresh water and sets the national policy framework for its use, management, and protection. The NPS-FM directs policy and standards to be implemented by Regional Councils, regarding freshwater management. An assessment of the Proposal has been made against the relevant provisions of the NPS-FM. The NPS-FM states that the health and well-being of our freshwater bodies is vital for the health and well-being of our land, our resources (including fisheries, flora and fauna) and our communities. The NPS-FM seeks to achieve this through national objectives and policies. Those objectives of relevance to the Proposal are outlined below.

We understand that the fundamental concept of the NPS-FM is Te Mana o te Wai, which refers to the importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and wellbeing of the wider environment. Te Mana o te Wai encompasses six principles relating to the roles of Tangata Whenua and New Zealanders in the management of freshwater, which are:
1. Mana whakahaere: the power, authority, and obligations of Tangata Whenua to make decisions that maintain, protect, and sustain the health and well-being of, and their relationship with, freshwater.
2. Kaitiakitanga: the obligation of Tangata Whenua to preserve, restore, enhance, and sustainably use freshwater for the benefit of present and future generations.
3. Manaakitanga: the process by which Tangata Whenua show respect, generosity, and care for freshwater and for others.
4. Governance: the responsibility of those with authority for making decisions about freshwater to do so in a way that prioritises the health and well-being of freshwater now and into the future.
5. Stewardship: the obligation of all New Zealanders to manage freshwater in a way that ensures it sustains present and future generations.
6. Care and respect: the responsibility of all New Zealanders to care for freshwater in providing for the health of the nation.
The objective of the NPS-FM is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed to:
 Firstly, prioritise the health and wellbeing of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems,
 Secondly, provide for the health needs of people, and
 Thirdly, allow for people and communities to provide for social economic and cultural wellbeing now and in the future.

We are of the opinion that the hydropower generation project can be advanced in a manner that is consistent with the three outcomes sought by the NPS-FM's objective. In this regard:
1. The Company has been very careful to understand the environmental values that are supported by Lowry Drain and Pahau River and has taken advice from some of New Zealand's leading experts as to how (i) all adverse effects can be avoided in the first instance, and remedied / mitigated where avoidance is not practicable, and (ii) what ecological benefits can be generated to more than offset the adverse impacts associated with the construction and operation of the project. This approach, in our opinion, prioritises the health and wellbeing of the waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems (and the terrestrial ecosystems and other environmental values that are present);
2. The proposal will not affect drinking water sources. By providing energy generation embedded in the local electricity network there is reduced risk of power supply disruption, which will assist to provide for the health needs of people.; and
3. By generating renewable energy the Proposal will enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, both now and into the future.
As identified in the preceding sections of this report, and the technical assessments undertaken in support of it, the Proposal has been considered in a holistic manner, ensuring that the effects of all the proposed activities are thoroughly understood. The conclusion of these assessments is that the Proposal will not result in adverse effects on the environment that are considered unacceptable. In addition, the proposed hydropower plants add a supplementary use, which provides for a more efficient utilisation of water.

The Proposal is not seeking to increase or change the rates and volumes of water allocated for irrigation. Instead the proposal will utilise unused water within the current allocation envelope for renewable energy generation.
The construction of the hydropower plants and ongoing operation and maintenance will also provide employment opportunities.
As identified in the preceding sections of this report and the forthcoming assessment of the relevant IMP's, we are of the opinion that the Proposal is consistent with Te Mana o te Wai, as we know it (accepting that Te Mana o te Wai is in the process of being defined for Canterbury).
Overall, we are of the opinion that the Proposal is consistent with the NPS-FM.

NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY (2023)
The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity ('the NPS-IB') recognises the national significance of native biodiversity and sets the national policy framework for its maintenance and protection. The NPS-IB states that indigenous biodiversity is a key part of the nation's identity and provides recreation, tourism, and ecosystem services. It is important to note that the NPS-IB does not include the following as taonga: (a) aquatic species; (b) populations and ecosystems solely located in waterbodies; and (c) populations and ecosystems in the coastal marine area.
We understand the fundamental aim on the NPS-IB is to maintain indigenous biodiversity across Aotearoa New Zealand and this will primarily be achieved through the identification of significant indigenous biodiversity areas ('SNAs'). Importantly, a SNA is deemed to be land that supports significant communities of indigenous species. Any adverse effects on these areas will be managed through the NPS-IB which directs policies and standards to be implemented by councils to establish consistent approaches to maintain indigenous biodiversity. This will be achieved through national objectives and policies and the relevant objectives to the Proposal are outlined below.
The objective of the NPS-IB is to maintain indigenous biodiversity across Aotearoa New Zealand so that there is at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity after the commencement date; and to achieve this:
• through recognising the mana of tangata whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity; and
• by recognising people and communities, including landowners, as stewards of indigenous biodiversity; and
• by protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity as necessary to achieve the overall maintenance of indigenous biodiversity; and
• while providing for the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities now and in the future.

The proposed hydropower plants will be located on farmland. The existing infrastructure owned by the Company will be used to supply water to the hydropower stations. Water taken and used for will be supplied under existing consents. The key change required is to allow winter use of water for hydropower generation, and the proposal includes ramping rate limits, which are not a feature of the existing discharge consents, and will lead to improved outcomes compared to the consented environment. Authorising year round generation of renewable energy is considered to be consistent the NPS-FM.

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Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

In accepting this proposal into the fast tracking process, the Ministers will accelerate the construction of a key addition to existing regionally significant infrastructure.

Existing irrigation schemes in Canterbury are considered regionally significant due to the economic benefit provided to the region's economy. Adding a dual function of hydropower generation provides significant benefits to existing irrigation infrastructure by increasing energy supply resilience and adding to the amount of renewable energy generated to meet climate change targets.

Every year that this project is delayed, prevents the benefits of the project being realised for both the environment and AIC. The cost of the project has been forecast in AIC's long term plans for nearly a decade and actioning this project will solidify that cost and allow farmers to move on to future strategic planning in their on-farm businesses and to assist MainPower with network planning and long term asset management.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

AIC has been working to advance this project for years with the support of the community and stakeholders. The consenting stage is one of the most uncertain components of its development. Consenting delays has already impacted the programme of works and CRC and the HDC have consenting backlogs which may continue to affect advancement of the project.

The fast-track process offers an effective means to advance a project where an applicant has taken the time to carefully design a proposal, consider the opinions of others and engage recognised experts to consider it, as is the case for this proposal. Acceptance into the fast-track process would give certainty to AIC to move forward with construction as soon as practicable without incurring additional delays in an environment where costs are constantly moving.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Central government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has a New Zealand Energy Strategy to reduce reliance on energy generated by fossil fuels and to increase renewable energy generation. As a renewable energy generation project the proposal is considered to be a priority project.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The proposal will be an upgrade to the existing Amuri Irrigation Company infrastructure. The existing infrastructure is recognised as regionally significant for Canterbury and the hydropower plants will form part of that infrastructure. This is reflected in the regional planning documents, the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) outlines the importance of irrigation to Canterbury:

Canterbury also contains over 70% of New Zealand's irrigated land. In 2009, approximately 500,000 hectares of rural land was irrigated in Canterbury. Additional irrigation water also has the potential to increase the versatility of our production systems and resilience of the economy, especially if the projected changes in weather patterns resulting from climate change, occur.

The CRPS also promotes the need for efficient renewable energy generation. Enhancing the utilisation of existing infrastructure and water allocations is considered to be an efficient use of water.

Established irrigation infrastructure is recognised in the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS), 2013, as regionally significant. Chapter 5 of the CRPS states:
Existing and consented community-scale irrigation, stockwater and rural drainage infrastructure are important to Canterbury's rural economy. They contribute significantly to Canterbury's well-being, are the subject of considerable public and private financial investment, and are unlikely to be readily replaced or duplicated.

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The construction of the hydropower project will benefit those organisations, and their suppliers, that are engaged to build the infrastructure. While AIC will only appoint a contractor(s) after it has completed a competitive tender process, it is reasonable to expect that several local entities will be engaged in the construction. This will benefit their social and economic wellbeing and is expected to generate economic multiplier benefits for the surrounding community.

The energy generated will provide a return on investment for AIC shareholders, as well as allowing MainPower to defer capital expenditure because there will be embedded energy generation to reduce the risk of energy shortages if a transformer were to fail.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

A reliable energy supply is critical for primary industries and households and businesses in the immediate area.

The CRPS states:
The rural productive base of Canterbury is essential to the economic, cultural and social well-being of its people and communities. Enabling the use of natural and physical resources to maintain the rural productive base is a foreseeable need of future generations.
The ability to appropriately utilise natural resources is a vital element in supporting the efficient and effective rural productive activities.

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project will support the development of water resources by adding a complementary use that does not result in any more water needing to be allocated and making use of largely existing infrastructure.

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Additional renewable energy generation contributes to a transition away from a reliance on fossil fuels. Climate change will have an impact on agriculture and increasing our renewable energy generation will assist in mitigating the effects of climate change and building resilience into our local supply.

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Local renewable energy generation provides diversity and resilience by reducing the risk of a lack of power supply following a natural disaster.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The hydropower stations will augment flows in the Pahau River and Lowry Drain while meeting the minimum flow requirements of the Hurunui and Waiau Uwha Rivers. Additional flow will increase habitat within the Lowry Drain and Pahau Rivers.

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Site is located within the Amuri Basin. The applicable resource management plans are the Hurunui District Plan ('HDP'), for activities governed by the territorial authority (HDC) and the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan ('CLWRP'), Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan ('HWRRP') and Canterbury

Air Regional Plan ('CARP') for those activities governed by the regional authority (CRC).

The Sites are located within the Rural Zone in the Hurunui District Plan.
The site of the proposed B1 hydropower station is on a tributary of the Pahau River, which is a tributary of the Hurunui Awa (Hurunui River), which has a Statutory Acknowledgement Area. The assessment of the Proposal against the applicable provisions of the HDP concludes that resource consent is required for the construction and operation of the replacement fish screen for several activities.

The HWRRP identifies that the Sites is located within Development Zone C of Map 3 and within the Culverden Hurunui Groundwater Allocation Zone in Map 2.

The CLWRP requires consents for a range of activities. Consents are held for the proposal except for the use of water over winter for hydropower generation and the associated discharges from the hydropower plants over winter months.

No outstanding natural features/landscapes ('ONFL's') have been identified within the project area at a district or regional level. Under the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement Regional Landscape Study Review, prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd in 2010, the hill ranges west to northwest of the Hurunui River and BWSF are the closest ONFL. No other ONFLs are identified within the Amuri Plain, or across the foothills west of it.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

AIC's abstraction records indicate that the volume of water taken varies from month to month and from year to year. In summary, the abstraction record reflects the climatic conditions that are being experienced. The Ministry for the Environment anticipates that climate change will result in a reduction in rainfall and snow melt, resulting in extended dry periods throughout the year. AIC expects that this will result in the need for it to abstract water (for irrigation) year-round. AIC and the CRC are agreed that Resource Consent CRC951326 and CRC951305 (the water take consents that supply the hydropower use) allow for this to occur.

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

AIC's abstraction records indicate that the volume of water taken varies from month to month and from year to year. In summary, the abstraction record reflects the climatic conditions that are being experienced. The Ministry for the Environment anticipates that climate change will result in a reduction in rainfall and snow melt, resulting in extended dry periods throughout the year. AIC expects that this will result in the need for it to abstract water (for irrigation) year-round. AIC and the CRC are agreed that Resource Consent CRC951326 and CRC951305 (the water take consents that supply the hydropower use) allow for this to occur.

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

Resource Consent CRC951327 related to AICs Balmoral take. Condition 2 related to the fish screen. In June 2021, CRC issued AIC with a formal warning related to a significant non-compliance of CRC951327 Condition 2 (failure to ensure effective seals), a non-compliance CRC951327 Condition 2 (apertures not small enough) and a non-compliance CRC951327 (operation).
In September 2021 CRC identified a number of non-compliances between screen material and operations and maintenance and required AIC to take action by 30 September 2022. These related to CRC951298 – Waiareka –Condition 2 - screens need cleaning, CRC51305 – Waiau – screen apertures not small enough (mesh which is < 3mm to be installed) and CRC951327 – Balmoral - screen apertures not small enough, and seals compromised (mesh which is < 3mm to be installed)
AIC responded by Barrister's letter in November 2021 noting that the design of the fish screens does meet current consent conditions.
In February 2023, CRC downgraded the significant non-compliance for the Balmoral fish screen (CRC951327) to non-compliance action required and confirmed that for CRC951298 – Waiareka Downs – Condition 2 – new fish screens had been installed and were now compliant. CRC was unable to determine compliance with CRC951298 Condition 3 – Fish bypass channel. AIC is, in consultation with CRC considering moving this fish screen to ensure better outcomes.

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Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

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By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:
Sara Black

Important notes