

Jacob Paget

From: Neil Deans s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 27 May 2024 1:45 pm
To: Listed Projects
Cc: Meredith Lawry; Lionel Solly; Cornelia Vervoorn
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]Feedback on FTA162 Mt Ella Renewable Energy Project

Kia ora Karen

Mount Ella Hydro Ltd has an existing concession (66778-OTH) to construct and operate a diversion weir in the Watson Creek (Tutaki East Conservation Area) as part of a proposed hydro scheme along with the location of an intake pipe and sluice race. The concession covers an area of 0.338ha.

In relation to the Fast Track application, the Watson Creek Stage 2 intake will be in the Tutaki East Conservation Area, and the tailrace from the power station will need to cross part of the Conservation Area to return water back to the creek. Tutaki East Conservation Area is stewardship land, so not ineligible for consideration under Fast Track.

The Mole Stream hydro intake is not on public conservation land but some of the pipework may need to cross part of the Tutaki East Conservation Area as well.

The Windfall hydro intake appears to be within the Conservation Area - Matakitaki River Headwaters. Again, this is stewardship land. The associated hydro stations are on private land.

The solar farm seems to be entirely on private land. DOC has, however, a walking track (the Mole Track) which traverses the northern and eastern sides of this area.

None of the works which are on public conservation land appear to make it ineligible. Note, however, that many of these are adjacent to Nelson Lakes National Park, which would not be eligible for Fast Track consideration.

Please note the Buller Water Conservation Order applies to some of the watercourses in the area. The Matakitaki River "upstream of the boundary between conservation estate and private land (map reference NZMS260 M30 700 070)" is listed in Schedule 1 of the WCO (waters to be retained in natural state) recognised to be outstanding for its headwater trout fishery and wild and scenic values. Mole Stream is listed in Schedule 2 (protected waters), recognised to be outstanding for trout spawning habitat and wild and scenic values. It is unclear if these points and matters are recognised or have been provided for in the application.

There may be requirements for freshwater fisheries with the intakes proposed for the application, and possibly also wildlife approvals needed. This was difficult to determine with the information provided.

The project area is in Ngāi Tahu's takiwā. We are not aware of any specific settlement obligations in relation to the public conservation land or private land within the application area. It would be necessary to confirm with Ngāi Tahu as to their views on the application.

Regards

Neil Deans

Advisor – RM Reform

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Level 2, Conservation House, Wellington 6143

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From: Listed Projects <ListedProjects@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 11:42 AM

To: Neil Deans s 9(2)(a)

Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE]Feedback on FTA162 Mt Ella Renewable Energy Project

Kia ora Neil,

Please find attached application FTA162 to include Mt Ella Renewable Energy Project as a 2B listed project. The project includes various hydro and solar generation in the Murchison district, and it identifies that a concession from the Department of Conservation to occupy a small portion of public conservation land is necessary.

Could you please let us know anything you're aware of that would render this project ineligible under Clause 18, or any relevant Treaty settlement provisions you are aware of. We'd be grateful if could you provide any feedback by **5pm Tuesday 28 May**.

Ngā mihi

Karen

Karen Sannazzaro ([she/her](#))

Senior Policy Analyst | Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

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Ministry staff work flexibly by default. My usual work hours are Monday-Thursday 8am-4.30pm.



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