

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-04-04 18:30:42

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2B

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Otututu Energy Limited

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
darryl sycamore

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Director

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:

19 Epsilon Street, Belleknowes
Belleknowes

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:

Rough (Otututu River) as described in the attached application and shown in Fig.3.

File upload:
Funding request to Minister Jones for Regional Growth Fund and Fast-track Approvals Bill.pdf was uploaded

Upload file here:

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

Yes

upload file:

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

The proposed scheme will sit over a number of landholdings, as shown in Section 7.2 of the attached document.

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:

The proposed scheme will sit within two farms, DoC land and LINZ river as described in the attached application.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Otututu Hydro Scheme

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

To construct an 11Mw hydro scheme providing resilience and low-cost energy to Coasters. The attached document sets out the proposal, potential effects, benefits and consultation with Manawhenua. s 9(2)(b)(ii)

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The proposed scheme will sit over a number of tenures as described in the attachment. The scheme has been assessed by consultancy SKM Limited and determined that a 11Mw scheme is viable in the catchment.

The West Coast has some of the highest average cost per kWh for electricity in NZ. There is also a need for capacity and resilience within the West Coast grid which can be subject to the costly disruption of power cuts. Peak demand for electricity in Westland has been forecast by Westpower Limited to grow from 50MW in 2012 to 70–80 MW by 2030, whilst electricity consumption is forecast to grow from 300GWhs to 400GWhs per annum by 2030. Typically, around 8.5% to 13% of energy is lost in transporting to Westland. Westpower the local lines company welcomes our additional energy to the local network.

We propose to enable locally sourced energy, with low generation losses supporting resiliency. Our model includes ownership with Development West Coast, Te Rununga o Ngati Waewae and Iwi Ngai Tahu.

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

Please write your answer here:

Please see the attached document for details.

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

We consider the scheme can be generating within five years of approvals.

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

Please write your answer here:

These are set out in the attachment but are

Resource Management Act 1991 - consents
Wildlife Act 1953 -authority to do anything otherwise prohibited
Conservation Act 1987 - approval
Reserves Act 1977 - approval

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

Please write your answer here:

Grey District Council and West Coast Regional Council.

Otututu Energy has presented to the three Territorial Authorities, West Coast Regional Council, Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae and have their strong support. That letter is attached to the end of the appended application.

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

Please write your answer here:

We have lodged a concession application to carry out engineering and environmental works with the Department of Conservation as described in the attachment.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

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

Please write your answer here:

This is set out in the application, however once funding and approvals are in place, works will commence without delay.

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

This is detailed in the attachment.

We have consulted face to face with
Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae
Te Runanga o Makaawhio
Westland District Council
Grey District Council
Buller District Council
West Coast Regional Council
Westland Fish & Game Council
Westland Conservation Board
Department of Conservation Area Manager
Westpower

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:

The first person outside the company to hear of the project with Francois Tumahai, Kaiwhakahaere for Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae. He has provided initial guidance on the project.

The attachment sets out relationships with interested groups and the potential effects of the scheme on their interests.

The final two pages of our application include verification of consultation.

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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:

none.

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

This is set out in the application.

We have unconditional support from manawhenua Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae s 9(2)(b)(ii)

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?

Yes

If yes, what are they?:

To the south is a parcel of forest land owned by Ngai Tahu. This land may present a useful access point to the pipeline, headpond and infiltration gallery area and consultation is underway with them.

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:

This is set out in the attachment.

We consider the potential adverse effects are less than minor although acknowledge dewatering a portion of the river may impact what is a highly regarded brown trout fishery.

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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:

This is set out in Section 7.4 of the application attached.

We conclude the proposal has support, or strong support from all the relevant national policy statements.

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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:

This is set out in the application.

There are multiple regimes that apply to the application.

Despite the strong regulatory framework support, the proposal will undoubtedly face challenge during the hearing and likely environment court appeals.

This opposition will come from local green interests and Fish & Game for the effects on trout fishing recreation.

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

Please write your answer here:

This is a positive project at a local and national level with minimal environmental effects.

It is a good news story that has strong support from locals, local Councils and Manawhenua.

Our proposal will be a good example of why the fast-track process is required.

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

Central government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

This is set out in the attachment,

Approximately 80% of New Zealand's electricity is currently generated from renewable resources, primarily hydro and geothermal. Around 19% is generated through the burning of fossil fuels.

New Zealand has signed and ratified the Paris Agreement (2015), committing the nation to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 establishes New Zealand's 2050 greenhouse gas emissions target for non-biogenic methane at zero. To achieve this, electricity generation using fossil fuels will need to be phased out.

The New Zealand Energy Strategy 2011-2021 states the Government's target is 90% of electricity generation be from renewable sources by 2025 (in an average hydrological year). A new Energy Strategy is anticipated by late 2024, with the previous Labour Government committing to an aspirational target of 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

The Government's first Emissions Reduction Plan 2022 - Te hau mārohi ki anamata, identifies the need for renewable, sustainable and efficient energy supply that is secure, reliable and resilient, by 2025. A key focus area to support this outcome is accelerating development of renewable electricity generation, and electrifying industry and transport.

There is a strong strategic case for investing in renewable energy as New Zealand has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and as our electricity consumption is forecast to increase. Our environmental legislation expressly provides for renewable energy generation as a matter of national importance. Further, the Government's 100 day plan has identified doubling renewable energy production as a priority along with reviewing the National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation.

The proposal meets eight of the ten eligibility criteria set out in clause 17 of the Fast-Track Approvals Bill and is not excluded under clause 18.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The Otututu (Rough) River has been identified as suitable for a potential 11.1Mw hydroelectric scheme in two government-commissioned reports:

- Waters of National Importance – Identification of Potential Hydroelectric Resources, 2004, by East Harbour Energy for the Ministry of Economic Development
- Renewable Energy Assessment, 2008, by Sinclair Knight & Mertz in conjunction with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority for the West Coast Regional Council

More recently, the Otututu River was identified as one of six most prospective waterbodies by Westpower Limited as part of their proposed Waitaha Scheme's 'Consideration of Alternatives' assessment.

Will the project:

increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, contribute to a well-functioning urban environment

Please explain your answer here:

Local resiliency with reduced electricity bills will enable communities to thrive, enable industry such as dairy or mining (the Waiuta Gold Mine is across who received \$15M from the Provincial Growth Fund). The proposed scheme will be the furthestmost generator from the Alpine Fault and rely less on importing energy with the 8-13.5% transmission losses. This will support homes, communities and growth,

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Lower power bills to communities, less transmission losses and the ability to support commercial growth. s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Mining and dairy are strong in Westland and both are significant users of energy. Our project will support these activities.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Mining requires reliable energy. The Waiuta Gold Mine at Blackwater, Roa Mines, and numerous others are in close proximity to the proposed scheme.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

This is set out in the application.
Our energy will reduce the reliance on carbon and reduce the need to import energy that may be generated using coals.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

This is set out in the application.
The proposal will offer a significant contribution to local resilience. It is also the furthestmost generator in Westland from the Alpine Fault.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes, and this is set out in the attachment.
Apart from the direct benefits, we promote a trust to fund local benefits including ownership with Development West Coast and Manawhenua.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes. This is set out in the proposal.

We consider the proposal has support or strong support from the relevant planning documents.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

We welcome the opportunity to travel to Wellington and present our case for the application, or to take Ministers to the site for a helicopter trip over the area.

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

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

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

No

If yes, please explain:

NO. It will assist in mitigating climate change and provide support to West Coasters during natural hazards.

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:

None.

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Declaration

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

Yes

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:

Darryl Sycamore

Important notes