

From: David Inch S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 10 June 2024 5:50 pm
To: Listed Projects
Subject: RE: [COMMERCIAL]Questions regarding West Coast Renewable Energy Project
Attachments: Fast-track Approvals Bill -Listed Projects- - Guidance for applicants.pdf; West Coast Renewable Energy Project On line application.pdf

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

H Steph, see below my comments in RED font:

1. Regarding complying with clauses 14(3)(h) and (i), and 16 of the Bill

a. has there been any consultation the local authorities with specific regard to this application under the Bill? I am not sure what you mean by “under this Bill” because the introduction of the Bill and then the subsequent request for applications to be included in Part 2B all happened extremely quickly. I have now advised the planner at the West Coast Regional Council (Tony Ridge) that we have lodged an application under the Fast Track Process. However, if you are meaning consultation in general then yes, we have done this under the RMA process. Clause 16 refers specifically to “this Act” and I cannot see how this was possible with only a few weeks to complete the applications under this Bill.

It appears that these clauses refer more to applications that are made after the Bill is passed into law. For those projects that are to be accepted for inclusion in Parts 2a and 2b some of these matters will need to occur as part of the Expert Panel RFI which will undoubtedly be required as they consider the applications in detail.

b. the application does not appear to have a statement explaining how any engagement, including the above, has informed the project. I have reviewed our application (see attached) and I note that I had referred our answer to the answer above that question where we had briefly answered it all in the one question. *“The applicant has met with local iwi and discussed the projects, and they are in support of them but await further detail on the projects. This has been provided for Harold creek and they are in general agreement of the project and are currently in discussion around conditions. To the best of our knowledge there is no known areas of significance to Māori that the project may intrude upon.”*

I can add to this. The renewable energy project involves 3 separate sites. All sites have resource consent applications lodged which are required to be withdrawn if this application is accepted and processed under the Fast Track Approval Act. We have meet with the local Iwi and discussed all three projects briefly but have had detailed consultation with them on the Harold Ck power scheme. They are in agreement with the scheme and we are discussing conditions of consent. The Littleman river has not had any detailed discussion as the council was wanting to do one application at a time however we have received affected party approval from DoC. At Turnbull River Scheme we have consulted with DoC and had them on site and they are in agreement in principal with the proposal but we have not lodged a concession application with them. The WCRC have also identified more consents we will need to apply for as the existing power scheme does not cover the entire activity.

In summary, engagement with affected persons is well underway and is supportive of the proposals . Hopefully, this is more informative.

That aside, our application was completed online, and we followed the “Guidance for applicants” that was provided by MfE which wanted the applications at a reasonably “high level”. This seemed very logical since the process wanted the applications to demonstrate that they were nationally or regionally significant infrastructure. When it comes to the Expert Panels processing an application, they still need to assess it under the various Acts like the RMA and Conservation Acts. That’s when the detail will need to be provided and/or requested.

Please let us know if there is any other information required.

Kind Regards

David Inch



From: Listed Projects <ListedProjects@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 12:19 PM
To: David Inch S 9(2)(a)
Cc: Stephanie McNicholl S 9(2)(a)
Subject: [COMMERCIAL]Questions regarding West Coast Renewable Energy Project
Importance: High

Kia ora David

Thank you for your application requesting inclusion of the West Coast Renewable Energy Project in Schedule 2B of the Fast-track Approvals Bill (the Bill).

I have reviewed the application and have some questions that I am forwarding to you as the applicant and address for service contact.

Could you please respond by **reply email**, providing the following:

1. Regarding complying with clauses 14(3)(h) and (i), and 16 of the Bill
 - a. has there been any consultation the local authorities with specific regard to this application under the Bill?
 - b. the application does not appear to have a statement explaining how any engagement, including the above, has informed the project.

Please provide your response by 12.30 pm tomorrow **Tuesday 11 June 2024** at the latest.

Ngā mihi
Steph

Stephanie McNicholl ([she/her](#))
Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui
Senior Policy Analyst | Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua
MfE Listed Projects

Ministry staff work flexibly by default. For me, this means I work 100% remotely. Also, you may receive an email from me outside of usual working hours. Please respond at a time that is convenient for you.



