



**GENESIS ENERGY LIMITED**

**TEKAPO POWER SCHEME**

Consultation Summary

May 2024

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***Ko tā te Waitaki mahi he manaaki i te motu***

The generosity of the Waitaki provides for the nation



## TEKAPO POWER SCHEME CONSENT APPLICATION CONSULTATION

### Genesis Approach

Genesis Energy Limited (“**Genesis**”) is committed to working proactively, consulting and engaging with mana whenua, iwi, local communities and key stakeholders in the area in which the Tekapo Power Scheme (“**Tekapo PS**”) is located.

Genesis’ approach to consultation and engagement is to be open, honest, inclusive and approachable. As such, consultation and engagement with mana whenua and key parties began as early as it practically and meaningfully could be in 2018 and has continued since that time.

In particular Genesis has:

1. Commenced consultation early, as indicated above;
2. Built upon existing relationships to engage with parties effectively, particularly over the last three years, given the known effects of the Tekapo PS;
3. Undertaken engagement in a proactive and flexible way to best fit the persons or parties being engaged with;
4. Provided funding and resourcing to assist with consultation as appropriate;
5. Ensured that the Genesis consent project team was accessible and available as appropriate;
6. Attended many hui, both in-person and online;
7. Sought to be respectful of all views, issues, and kōrero shared during engagement;
8. Provided information and site visits as appropriate, and provided technical assessments to assist with understanding of what is proposed and what has been assessed;
9. Confirmed that Genesis is not seeking any alterations to the current operational parameters associated with the ongoing operation of the Tekapo PS apart from an adjustment to the flood operating rules; and
10. Amended, as appropriate, technical assessments, the application, the proposed consent conditions and the proposed mitigation measures to respond to and incorporate feedback from the Waitaki Rūnaka and key stakeholders.

The following sections provide an overview of the consultation and engagement that was undertaken to support the preparation of this AEE and the re consenting of the Tekapo PS. Feedback from Waitaki Rūnaka and key stakeholders over the last three years has informed this application, the proposed consent conditions and the proposed mitigation measures.

## Manawhenua

Genesis acknowledges the significant importance of the Waitaki Catchment to the Waitaki Rūnaka and Kāi Tahu whānui. As such, significant effort and resource has been directed towards engagement with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Waihao and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki (collectively referred to as the Waitaki Rūnaka or Manawhenua) as holding mana whenua in the Waitaki Catchment. The Waitaki Rūnaka were supported by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (“**TRoNT**”) representatives, advisors, planning experts and RMA lawyers throughout our engagements. Throughout the discussions, TRoNT representatives were very clear that their role was in support of the Waitaki Rūnaka as mana whenua.

Genesis’ engagement and consultation was undertaken with the representatives of the three Papatipu Rūnanga (Waitaki Rūnaka) jointly with Meridian representatives, as appropriate, as all parties agreed that joint engagement would be an efficient and effective use of time and resources, as well as being able to consider the combined WPS and its ongoing effects holistically.

Genesis has worked collaboratively with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Waihao and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki prior to lodging the application and will continue to do so throughout the application process. As a result of those discussions, Ngā Rūnaka have provided letters of support for the application.

In their letters of support, Ngā Rūnaka recognised the significance of the waters of the Waitaki alongside the significance of hydro electricity generation to the nation and adopted an intergenerational approach to protecting the health and well-being of the Waitaki Catchment. Ngā Rūnaka have therefore worked collaboratively with Genesis and Meridian to develop a package that includes:

1. Conditions that are to be attached to the resource consents;
2. A mitigation package for the duration of the consents;
3. An enhanced relationship agreement between Genesis/Meridian and Ngā Rūnaka; and
4. A suite of measures (including financial) that further provide for the management of adverse effects on Ngā Rūnaka with this Ngāi Tahu taonga.

The four components of this package recognise that restoration of the Waitaki Catchment requires time, capacity, commitment, collaboration and importantly, resourcing. This approach recognises Ngā Rūnaka rangatiratanga over the Waitaki Catchment and its taonga, including wai māori, and enables greater economic, spiritual and cultural connections for mana whenua.

Ngā Rūnaka understand that the replacement consents will enable the continued operation of the Waitaki Power Scheme for a 35-year term and that no material changes to the current activities and existing consent flexibility of the Waitaki Power Scheme are proposed.

The Genesis application proposes no material changes to the present Tekapo PS operation and matters identified by Ngā Rūnaka with respect to the proposed consent

conditions are addressed in proposed consent conditions which have been discussed with them. All other matters are addressed through the relationship agreement between Genesis and Ngā Rūnaka.

Genesis continues to discuss the application with Ngā Rūnaka.

### **Department of Conservation**

Genesis has discussed the application with the Department of Conservation (“**DoC**”). Through this discussion, Genesis has reached agreement with DoC and Meridian regarding the continuation of and increased funding for an indigenous biodiversity enhancement programme to work towards improving the condition, resilience, native biodiversity, ecological processes and other values of the braided rivers and associated environment including the wetlands within the Waitaki Catchment. Conditions requiring implementation of the biodiversity programme are included in the proposed consent conditions.

Genesis continues to discuss the application with DoC and has received a letter of support for the application.

### **Fish and Game**

Genesis has discussed the application with Central South Island Fish and Game Region officers, with the discussion focussing on the operation of the Tekapo PS. Through this discussion, fish salvage measures have been developed in conjunction with Fish and Game. Conditions relating to sports fish salvage and other matters of interest to Fish and Game are incorporated into the proposed consent conditions.

Genesis continues to discuss the application with Fish and Game and has received a letter of support for the application.

### **Tekapo Whitewater Trust / Whitewater New Zealand**

Genesis has discussed the application with the Trustees of the Tekapo Whitewater Trust / Whitewater New Zealand, focussing on the operation of the Tekapo PS and recreational releases of water. Through this discussion, Genesis has proposed an agreement with Tekapo Whitewater Trust / Whitewater New Zealand regarding recreational matters based on previous agreements with the Trust and has incorporated provisions in the proposed consent conditions to address these matters. Genesis continues to discuss the application with the Tekapo Whitewater Trust / Whitewater New Zealand.

### **Meridian Energy**

Genesis has consulted with Meridian on matters of mutual involvement regarding the combined Waitaki Power Scheme operations and where working with Meridian could achieve better environmental outcomes for the Waitaki Catchment.

### **Mackenzie District Council**

Genesis has discussed the application with the Mackenzie District Council and the Tekapo Community Board, with the discussion focussing on the operation of the Tekapo

PS and Takapō lake levels, noting that Genesis is not seeking any alterations to the current operational parameters associated with the ongoing operation of the Tekapo PS apart from an adjustment to the flood operating rules. Genesis continues to discuss the application with Mackenzie District Council and has received a letter of support for the application.

### **Mount Cook Alpine Salmon**

Genesis has discussed the application with Mount Cook Alpine Salmon who operate a salmon farming operation in the Tekapo Canal.

Genesis continues discuss the application with Mount Cook Alpine Salmon as needed and has received a letter of support for the application.

### **Other Interested Parties**

Genesis has discussed the application with other parties at various times during preparation of the resource consent application and has confirmed that Genesis is not seeking any alterations to the current operational parameters associated with the ongoing operation of the Tekapo PS apart from an adjustment to the flood operating rules. These parties include irrigators, NZ Defence Force, Waka Kotahi, Land Information New Zealand, The Wolds Station, Rayward Aviation, Mt John Observatory, Irishman Creek Station, Maryburn Station, Balmoral Station, other landowners, Environmental Defence Society and the Forest and Bird Society.

Genesis will discuss the application with other parties as needed through the process.

### **Canterbury Regional Council**

Genesis has discussed the application with Canterbury Regional Council, with the discussion focussing on the procedure that would be followed for the application, the resource consent requirements, the existing environment and matters that could be included in consent conditions, as addressed in the proposed consent conditions. Genesis continues to discuss the application with Canterbury Regional Council as needed.