

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FRD-6

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-03 12:33:53

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Tukituki Water Security Project

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Stephen Daysh

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Partner – Mitchell Daysh Limited

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:
Mitchell Daysh Ltd, PO Box 149 Napier, 4110

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

Yes

Organisation:
Tukituki Water Security Limited

Contact person:
Mike Petersen

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

Email address:
s 9(2)(a)

Job title:
Director, Tukituki Water Security Limited

Please enter your service address:

Te Puna Farm, R.D.4, Waipukurau 4284

Additional Contact:
Hugh Ritchie
s 9(2)(a)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

The project is located in the Makaroro, Waipawa, Tukituki and Papanui Stream catchments – see the attached project map.

The Project area includes 22 hectares of the Ruahine Forest Park which is former State forest park, deemed under the Conservation Act 1987 to be held by the Minister of Conservation for conservation purposes as conservation park. This land is required for the project to be viable and will be exchanged as stewardship land under the Conservation Act, for a larger area of private land.

File upload:

Overview map and schedule of Landowners - May 2013.pdf was uploaded

Upload file here:

No file uploaded

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

No

upload file:

No file uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Please refer to the schedule attached in the PDF above with the overview map.

The currently held suite of resource consents cover approximately 25,000 hectares and it is not practical to provide all the records of title. The records of the landowner details for the project as of 2013 when the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (RWSS) resource consent and designation applications were lodged with the EPA are attached with the overview map above.

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 Tukituki Water Security Project (TWSP) is a Community Irrigation Scheme as defined in the Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan as "A Water Supply system that is capable of providing irrigation water to multiple production land properties and other ancillary uses". As such land agreements will be required from a range of landholders for the project infrastructure. These agreements were all well advanced in the period 2013 to 2017 when the RWSS secured its suite of resource consents and will require rekindling by the new TWSP project team through 2024. Initial discussions with all the key landowners associated with the Makaroro Dam site and extent of the reservoir regarding the proposed new project have been held.

Water Holdings Hawke's Bay (WHHB) holds a suite of 17 resource consents for the project from Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Central Hawke's Bay District Council and Hastings District Council. These resource consents were granted for a term of 35 Years and have a lapse date of 30 June 2025.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Tukituki Water Security Project

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The Tukituki Water Security Project (TWSP) is a purpose driven project, to address strategically important environment, water and health issues within Hawke's Bay, create jobs, improve the productive capacity of the food and fibre sector, fast track adaptation in response to climate change, and develop the most environmentally friendly water security strategy in New Zealand.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

Water security is a key strategic issue for the wider Hawke's Bay region, and future generations.

The purpose of this project is to address strategically important environment, water and health issues within Hawke's Bay, create jobs, improve the productive capacity of the food and fibre sector, fast track adaptation in response to climate change, and develop the most environmentally friendly water security strategy in New Zealand. The concept of Te Mana o te Wai – putting the health of the river first – continues to guide this project.

The project has focused on rescoping a strategy for water security that explicitly prioritises Te Mana o te Wai, environmental remediation in the face of climate change, community needs and then those of commercial water users and all others in that order.

The Project provides for a catchment-scale storage dam on the Makaroro River that provides (up to) a 20m³ environmental flow for the Tukituki main-stem in order to maintain actual minimum flows under an extreme drought scenario. The Project provides for the potential for that enhanced flow to be taken and utilised (through a pumped take in the Mangateretere area) into the water-short Lower Heretaunga Plains area (including the Whakatu-Tomoana Wet Industrial Area). This takes pressure off the groundwater resource in that catchment also.

The portfolio of consents held by Water Holdings were granted for 35 years and lapse this year. They remain generally fit for purpose with regards to the required infrastructure required for this Project.

The project will involve:

1. Securing the necessary approvals under the Conservation Act
2. Extending the lapse date on the current consents (which lapse in June 2025)
3. Amendments to existing and securing new resource consents for the downstream distribution network, including the delivery of stored water from the Makaroro Dam to Lake Whatuma, the Mangatarata catchment area the lower Heretaunga catchment area.
4. Installation of a Project Team to complete the commercial business case, and then lead the process for tendering constructors, contracting users, securing investors and overseeing the build through to operation of the scheme.

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

Please write your answer here:

The staging and timing of the design, procurement and construction of the project is noted in the question below regarding construction etc. The delivery of the project within those timeframes depends on the final authorisations required for the Project above being completed and secured through 2024 and early 2025.

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

Please write your answer here:

RMA 1991; Conservation Act 1987; Wildlife Act 1953; and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

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

Please write your answer here:

Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Central Hawke's Bay District Council, Hastings District Council

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

Please write your answer here:

Consents for the Tukituki Water Security Project are already held by Water Holdings Hawke's Bay Limited having been secured during the development of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme. These approvals were granted following a full public consultation, submission and hearings process.

Resource consents held are as follows:

Central Hawkes Bay District Council:

- RM150058 - Land use

Hastings District Council:

- RMA20160003 - Makaroro Reservoir Land use

Hawke's Bay Regional Council:

- AUTH-120421-02 (LU120370Ca) - Makaroro Dam Structure, Land use consent, water permit, and discharge permit
- AUTH-120423-02 (WP120371Ma) - Makaroro Damming, Take, Diversion and Discharge, Water permit and discharge permit
- AUTH-120425-02 (LU120372Ca) - Upstream Water Intake Structure, Land use consent, water permit, and discharge permit
- AUTH-120427-02 (WP120373Ta) - Upstream Water Intake Diversion and Take, Water permit
- AUTH-120429-02 (LU120374Ca) - Downstream Water Intake Structure, Land use consent, water permit, and discharge permit
- AUTH-120431-02 (WP120375Ta) - Downstream Water Intake Diversion and Take, Water permit
- AUTH-120433-02 (LU120376Ca) - Beds of Rivers and Streams, Land use consent, water permit, and discharge permit
- AUTH-120435-02 (LU120377Ca) - Works In and Near Waterways, Land use consent, water permit, and discharge permit
- AUTH-120437-02 (LU120378Ca) - Mangaonuku Outfall Structure, Land use consent, water permit, and discharge permit
- AUTH-120439-02 (DP120379Wa) - Mangaonuku Outfall Discharge, Discharge permit
- AUTH-120441-02 (LU120380Ca) - Kahahakuri Outfall Structure, Land use consent, water permit, and discharge permit
- AUTH-120443-02 (DP120381Wa) - Kahahakuri Outfall Discharge, Discharge permit
- AUTH-120445-02 (LU120382La) - Production Land Use, Land use consent
- AUTH-120452-02 (LU120388Pa) - Planting and Associated Works, Land use consent
- AUTH-120466-02 (CD120400Da) - Beach Nourishment, Coastal permit

- AUTH-121944-01 (LU150332L & WP150357U) - To use water and production land, Land use consent and Water permit

The TWSP has however been prevented from being implemented by legal barriers identified by the Supreme Court in July 2017^[1] in respect of decision-making under the Conservation Act 1987 (CA). The issues related to the proposed exchange of 146 hectares of privately owned native bush for 22 hectares of conservation land^[2] within the proposed Makaroro reservoir footprint.

The decisions made under the CA to enable the exchange of private land for conservation land involved four steps:

- a. declaring the conservation land to be held for conservation purposes^[3];
- b. revocation of conservation park status^[4] in order to change its status to stewardship land;
- c. exchanging stewardship land resulting from revocation for private land^[5]; and
- d. declaring private land to be held as conservation park under the CA^[6].

Footnotes:

[1] Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Co Ltd v Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc [2017] NZSC 106

[2] This is former forest park land which is held under the CA subject to transitional deeming provisions as to its status

[3] Section 7 of CA, relating to section 61(3) of the CA

[4] Section 18(7) of CA

[5] Section 16A of CA

[6] Section 16A(3) of CA

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

There are no third parties requiring approvals for the project.

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

Please write your answer here:

Following the approvals being granted, and funding being secured the project team will engage in the commercial engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract process over an 18 to 24 month period. Project construction will follow over a 2 to 3 year period. An indicative timeframe is provided below.

- Detailed design (dam component completed in 2016)
- Procurement (late 2024/2025)
- Funding (late 2024/2025)
- Site works commencement (early 2026)
- Completion (2029)

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

- Hawke's Bay Regional Council
- Central Hawke's Bay District Council
- Hastings District Council
- Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea
- Tamatea Pokai Whenua Trust (PSGE for Tamatea and Heretaunga mana whenua)
- Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Authority
- Landowners within project area (including designation)

An important part of the TWSP rescoping has been a programme of meetings through 2023 and the first part of 2024 to establish a Community Trust or a Limited Partnership with the intention that the Trust will hold the current resource consents for the project and oversee the commercial development to ensure the project is developed in a way that provides the maximum benefit to the Central HB and wider HB communities.

TWS Ltd and WHHB Ltd are currently in detailed discussions with Tamatea Pokai Whenua Trust and CHBDC regarding the establishment of the structure, function and purpose for the community entity with a target date of 30 July 2024 to have the entity established.

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 Tukituki Water Security Project has agreement in principle from Water Holdings Hawke's Bay Limited to access and use the consents and IP from the Ruataniwha project. The details relating to that consultation processes are set out in Chapter 28 of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Part C - Assessment of Environmental Effects, May 2013 (attached below).

17 resource consents were secured following a full public process of submissions and hearings in Hawke's Bay.

The Tukituki Water Security Project Steering Group has had numerous meetings and consultation with interested parties to the project. During the past four years following rescoping of the project, we have met on numerous occasions with the following parties:

- Mayors and CEOs of all local Councils,
- Chair, staff and Councillors of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council,
- Mana Whenua, from Taiwhenua, and also the relevant PSG - Tamatea Pokai Whenua,
- Chair and key staff of Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated and its commercial entity,
- The owner of the land adjacent to the dam footprint,
- Local landowners and potential users of water,
- Ministers and Members of Parliament from across the House,
- Key Government officials, both locally in Hawke's Bay and in Wellington,
- Other irrigation schemes around the country and Irrigation NZ
- A number of individuals with interest in the project within the community and also other parts of NZ.

Upload file here:

RWSS AEE May 2013 S28 - Community Engagement.pdf was uploaded

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:

No processes currently underway.

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

The HTST Treaty Settlement Documents are set out within the following website, along with the information stated below:

<https://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz/te-kahui-whakatau-treaty-settlements/find-a-treaty-settlement/heretaunga-tamatea/>

Heretaunga Tamatea and its hapū is one of six large natural groupings negotiating the settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Kahungunu. Heretaunga Tamatea's area of interest extends from the Tūtaekurī River in the north following the ridge of the Ruahine Range south to Takapau and turns seawards to Pōrangahau in the south. The rohe includes five major river systems – the Tūtaekurī, the Ngaruroro, the Tukituki, the Maraetōtara and the Pōrangahau/Tāurekaitai – and comprises an alluvial plains system powered by the Heretaunga and the Ruataniwha aquifers. Heretaunga Tamatea have a population of approximately 15,900 people (2013 Census).

The settlement package is made up of:

- Acknowledgements and an apology by the Crown for the Crown's acts and omissions that caused prejudice to Heretaunga Tamatea and breached the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles
- Cultural redress, including an historical account, five significant site vestings, overlay classifications, statutory acknowledgements, deed of recognitions and geographic name changes
- Financial and commercial redress of \$100 million, including the purchase of Kaweka and Gwavas Crown Forest land with Ahuriri Hapū and the right to purchase a number of Crown properties, plus interest on the financial and commercial redress accrued since the signing of the Agreement in Principle. A further \$5 million will be set aside to support the long-term sustainability of Te Aute College.

https://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND_Treaty_Settlements/Heretaunga/DOS_documents/Heretaunga-Tamatea-Deed-of-Settlement-Summary.pdf

The Deed of Settlement provides for 27 Statutory Acknowledgements including the Tukituki River and its tributaries within the Heretaunga Tamatea area of interest.

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?:

N/A

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

Yes

If yes, what are they?:

There are no identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu within the Makaroro dam or reservoir site or any of the locations of the downstream built infrastructure. There are limited areas of Māori owned land within the irrigation command areas that will have access to stored water for irrigation purposes.

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?

No

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?:

N/A

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

No

If yes, please explain:

N/A

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:

The anticipated and known adverse effects are as set out in the attached documents (attached as one file):

- Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Part C - Assessment of Environmental Effects, May 2013 - Chapters 14 to 27
- Department of Conservation Ecology Report (in relation to support for the land swap).

Upload file:

RWSS AEE May 2013 S14-27 and DOC Ecology Report.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:

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020:

The fundamental concept of the NPSFM is Te Mana o te Wai, a concept that refers to the importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater will protect the health and wellbeing of the wider environment which represents an adoption of a water-centric approach to freshwater management.

The sole objective of the NPSFM follows this concept and seeks to ensure that natural and physical resource are managed in a way that:

- Firstly, prioritises the health and wellbeing of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems;
- Then, the health and needs of people; and
- Then, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

It is noted that there is a key requirement for Hawke's Bay Regional Council is to have an NPSFM compliant regional plan prepared and notified by 31 December 2024.

In relation to the general requirements of the NPSFM, as they relate to the current portfolio of consents held for the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (RWSS), there is a RWSS review condition that states "the conditions are consistent with any policies or rules in a regional plan or National Environmental Standard or Regulation that becomes legally effective after grant of consent".

Due to the thorough considerations of the “mountains to the sea” effects including consultation with and input to conditions by tangata whenua (including developing and framing the range of the Integrated Mitigation and Offset Approach (“IOMA”) projects which traverse the full catchment from the Ruahine Ranges through to the mouth of the Tukituki River) the RWSS conditions are considered to be generally consistent with the concept of Te Mana o te Wai. Any further material involvement with tangata whenua as shareholders and partners in a rescoped Tukituki Water Security Project will enhance this position.

The relevant RWSS consent condition (Condition 5 of Schedule Three) is consistent with the National Bottom line in rivers associated with the Attribute unit for Nitrate (toxicity) measured as mg NO₃ – N/L (milligrams nitrate-nitrogen per litre).

Condition 12A of Schedule Three, inserted by the board of Inquiry as part of its June 2015 re-consideration, related to ensuring there is no material contribution to any exceedance of the DIN limits and targets reinforces that consistency.

The voluntary variation made by HBRIC in adding the Ecosystem Health monitoring and mitigation conditions associated with MCI levels made in 2016 after the final Board of Inquiry Decision already address the intention of the NPSFM in regard to baseline measuring, regular monitoring and adding in additional mitigation if required to ensure ecosystem health of the catchment.

The consent conditions regarding the maintenance of fish passage and the agreed “trap and transfer conditions” are generally consistent with the requirements of the NPSFM 2020.

National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020:

The NESF regulates activities that pose risks to the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. Of particular relevance to the Huriwaka Wind Farm are rules relating to activities that may affect natural wetlands and culverts. Resource consent will be required for activities associated with the Wind Farm construction, including earthworks, within, or within 100 m of natural wetlands.

The NESF specifies rules relating to the construction of specified infrastructure. This includes the requirement of the adoption of the effects management hierarchy.

The RWSS resource consents were broadly framed and are generally associated with the construction of specified infrastructure in geographically defined areas along with the take, conveyance and use of water for irrigation purposes. The way the Freshwater NES is framed is to restrict certain activities (require resource consent) for which new activities are sought, and so apart from any review that might be initiated under the scheme’s review conditions, it does not give rise to any further restrictions on the activities for which the RWSS were granted per se.

Where it will have an effect is in relation to the farming activities of water users, for example certain requirements and restrictions on farming activities (e.g., feedlots, dairy conversions, conversions of plantation forestry to pastoral land use and dairy support – see Part 2 of Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020).

Potential water users for a re-scoped Tukituki Water Security Project will be made aware of the new requirements as per above.

National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity:

The NPSIB is relevant to indigenous biodiversity associated with the Makaroro River and its environs where the Makaroro Dam and reservoir are proposed. Specifically, the report ‘Proposed Integrated Mitigation and Offset Approach’ (HBRIC, May 2013f) sets out the way in which the residual biophysical effects (e.g. effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecology) are addressed around the dam/reservoir area and downstream to the intake site, that are not practicably able to otherwise be avoided, remedied, or mitigated directly or entirely.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, 2010:

The proposed beach nourishment is consistent with the relevant objectives and policies in the NZCPS, which include promoting the restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment and which can include restoring and protecting riparian and intertidal margins.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation:

The proposed generation of hydro-electricity as part of this Project is entirely consistent with the outcomes sought to be achieved by the NPS REG.

File upload:

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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:

The Supreme Court Decision in 2017 provided an interpretation of the Conservation Act that ruled against the process of transferring DOC stewardship land to enable the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme to proceed. This ruling did not assess the merits of what was being proposed. The primary alternative to the fast-track process is to a change to the Conservation Act or acquire a Local Bill. Therefore, a fast track is more time and cost efficient.

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

Please write your answer here:

Given all resource consents are existing, the limited further authorisations are not likely to have any material impact on the efficient operations of the fast track process.

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

Other

Please explain your answer here:

Water security and water storage has been identified as a strategic priority at both Local Government level and on a regional level in all district plans. The Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Agency has water storage as a key priority to enable economic growth for this region.

Hawkes Bay Regional Water Assessment Report 2023:

Work done by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) in 2020 showed that rivers in the Heretaunga and Central Hawke's Bay catchments will be some of the worst hit by climate change in New Zealand. The Regional Water Assessment prepared by HBRC in 2023 gives options for demand reductions, to lessen the gap between water demand and supply, and investigates supply solutions that could be valuable tools to support environmental outcomes. Community storage infrastructure is highlighted on page 78 of this document.

See - [Hawkes-Bay-Regional-Water-Assessment-report-28-June-2023.pdf](#) (hbrc.govt.nz)

Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP):

The RRMP is a combined regional policy statement (RPS) and a regional plan. It sets out a wide range of objectives, policies and methods (mainly rules) in relation to the management of natural and physical resources within the jurisdiction of the HBRC.

Change 5 proposes to introduce new provisions relating to the integrated management of water and land into the RPS parts of the RRMP. The provisions of Change 5 are of particular relevance to the TWSP as they set out the overarching approach to the integrated management of water and land resources with a focus on a catchment based approach including specifically in relation to the Tukituki River catchment. Water storage and the use of that water for maintaining or enhancing land-based primary production are explicitly recognised and provided for as part of the relevant objectives and policies in Change 5.

Given the nature of the proposed activities comprising the TWSP, Change 6 is the key planning document which is central to the assessment and determination of the resource consent applications within the administrative jurisdiction of the HBRC. Change 6 inserts new sections in Chapters 5 (5.9) and 6 (6.9) of the RRMP relating to the Tukituki River catchment within which the TWSP Scheme is proposed to be located. It is the first of a number of catchment specific plan changes for the Hawke's Bay Region which seek to implement the NPSFM, as well as address specific water allocation and water quality issues in the catchment.

The objectives in Change 6 put in place a strong policy regime seeking to sustainably manage the fresh water resources within the Tukituki River catchment in accordance with the NPSFM. One of the objectives in Change 6 (OBJ TT5) is to enable Community Irrigation Schemes such as the proposed TWSP, subject to the outcomes in other objectives being achieved.

See - [Tukituki-Plan-Change-6.pdf](#) (hbrc.govt.nz)

Central Hawkes Bay District Plan (Proposed – Decision Version):

RLR-P6 - To recognise the value of reliable stored water resources and associated infrastructure where it provides increased water availability and security for maintaining and enhancing the productive capacity of the rural land resource.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

National significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The Tukituki Water Security Project is considered to be of national significance for the same reasons given by the Ministers Direction from 2013 in the link below and as summarised in the points below:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/FileAPI/proposal/NSP000028/Ministers-Direction/13434284a1/Signed-Ministers-Direction-2013-06-10.pdf>

- The project would involve significant use of natural and physical resources.
- The proposed dam would be the largest to be constructed under the RMA and the largest in NZ for irrigation purposes.
- The project affects more than one region or district as it is proposed to extend into Central Hawke's Bay and Hastings Districts, being within the boundary of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council.
- The proposal is significant in terms of section 8 of the RMA (Treaty of Waitangi).
- It has previously had widespread public interest and support.

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

No not directly, however the increased economic activity during the establishment, construction and operation of the scheme will create additional employment within the region.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Initial Business Case modelling for economic activity for the region has estimated a very positive economic impact for the region, with the creation of 2500 – 3000 additional jobs and additional GDP in excess of \$300 million. With the inclusion of the proposed environmental flows that will guarantee the Tukituki minimum flow level in all years, it is estimated that the TWSP could irrigate approximately 20,000 ha of land, with a high level of reliability. This would strongly support high value land uses such as the development of permanent horticulture and high value seed production.

Economic analysis from 2013 determined that from a community and farmer perspective the figures of \$14 -21 million per year and a NPV of \$225 - 408 million could be realised, however the commercial business case redevelopment will rescope economic benefits from this project.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Land use under irrigation will change towards more intensive and profitable farming systems. A high proportion will be permanent horticulture, seed production and arable farming depending on soil type.

Land use will be determined by relative profitability and soil type, moderated by the farm owner's preference and further analysis will be determined during commercial business case development. Evidence from other areas of New Zealand where irrigation is applied, supports the view that farmers and growers within these catchments tend to operate in the top 20% for due to their use of modern and efficient irrigation technology, a tendency to be greater adopters of new technologies driven by greater motivation and improved technical skills.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project provides environmental flows for main arterial waterways, associated tributaries and supplementary water for the Heretaunga Plains which are key climate change responses. The project also anticipates providing water for communities struggling with water use restrictions during periods of drought and low flows.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The TWSP storage of water in the Makaroro Dam and associated reservoir can be managed in a proactive way by the consent holder to anticipate very large rainfall events and hold floodwaters that would otherwise cause damage to downstream landholdings and communities.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The TWS Project would:

- Provide (up to) a 20m³ environmental flow for the Tukituki main-stem in order to maintain actual minimum flows under an extreme drought scenario (most extreme year on record).
- Enable potential for that enhanced flow to be taken and utilised (through a pumped take in the Mangateretere area) into the water-short Lower Heretaunga Plains area (including the Whakatu-Tomoana Wet Industrial Area). This takes pressure off the groundwater resource in that catchment.
- Protect the groundwater resource by moving current irrigators off the groundwater systems and protect the groundwater resource.
- Provide meaningful flows of water for restoration purposes into culturally significant waterways. The TWSP is a catchment scale solution from the 'Mountains to the Sea', the key variables and risks within the catchment can be managed to meet all stakeholder needs in an integrated and dynamic fashion.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The RRMP is a combined regional policy statement (RPS) and a regional plan. It sets out a wide range of objectives, policies and methods (mainly rules) in relation to the management of natural and physical resources within the jurisdiction of the HBRC.

Change 5 proposes to introduce new provisions relating to the integrated management of water and land into the RPS parts of the RRMP. The provisions of Change 5 are of particular relevance to the TWSP as they set out the overarching approach to the integrated management of water and land resources with a focus on a catchment based approach including specifically in relation to the Tukituki River catchment. Water storage and the use of that water for maintaining or enhancing land-based primary production are explicitly recognised and provided for as part of the relevant objectives and policies in Change 5.

Change 6 is the key planning document which is central to the assessment and determination of the resource consent applications within the administrative jurisdiction of the HBRC. Change 6 inserts new sections in Chapters 5 (5.9) and 6 (6.9) of the RRMP relating to the Tukituki River catchment within which the TWSP Scheme is proposed to be located. It is the first of a number of catchment specific plan changes for the Hawke's Bay Region which seek to implement the NPSFM, as well as address specific water allocation and water quality issues in the catchment.

The objectives in Change 6 put in place a strong policy regime seeking to sustainably manage the fresh water resources within the Tukituki River catchment in accordance with the NPSFM. One of the objectives in Change 6 is to enable Community Irrigation Schemes such as the proposed TWSP, subject to the outcomes in other objectives being achieved.

Change 9 (TANK) to the RRMP was publicly notified on 2 May 2020 and hearings are continuing. This Plan Change is associated with both water quality and water quantity in the Heretaunga Plains catchments. It caps water takes from the Heretaunga Plains aquifer at 90Mm³ per annum and generally restricts any new takes from surface and ground water. It also introduces a regime for looking at enhanced flows from stored water as an offset for depletion of summer flows in lowland streams and to provide some capacity for land-use growth, particularly as it relates to underutilised Maori land holdings.

Of importance, the Project would provide for up to an additional 20Mm³ of summer flows from stored water to guarantee the Red Bridge minimum flow is that there is no minimum flow at the downstream Black Bridge. This would enable potential for that enhanced flow to be taken and utilised in the Mangateretere area and into the water-short Lower Heretaunga Plains area (including the Whakatu-Tomoana Wet Industrial Area).

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

No

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

No

If yes, please explain:

N/A

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

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

Yes

If yes, please explain:

Climate Change:

The Lewis Tucker Report states: The Makaroro storage alternative is located in a high rainfall zone adjacent to the Ruahine Range. The hydrological record indicates exceptionally high reliability inflows, with the data having been validated after the RWSS project stalled. Technical experts are of the opinion that under climate change, the storage dam will benefit from increased westerly rain 'spillover'. Conversely the areas where the water will be 'applied' are likely to dry further.

Faults:

The studies undertaken for the feasibility study of the RWSS (Reports 1 and 2) show that there is no evidence of active (earthquake) fault lines (capable of producing ground displacements of several metres) at the proposed dam footprint (Exhibit 1). The closest fault is the Mohaka Fault at ~800 m distance. The Mohaka Fault would be located under the proposed dam reservoir.

There is a possibility of secondary fault rupture (minor, usually less than a 1 m displacement that occurred at the same time as rupture of major active fault lines, such as the Mohaka Fault) at the proposed dam site (~800 m east of the Mohaka Fault). Studies focussed on assessing the presence and the size of secondary fault displacements around and at the proposed site found no evidence of secondary displacement during the last 10,000 years at selected localities that were considered good candidates for secondary displacement (Exhibit 2).

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

Load your file here:

No file uploaded

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:

Stephen Daysh

Important notes