



30-04-2024

To: listedprojects@mfe.govt.nz


Letter of support for listing the Waitaha hydro scheme in Schedule 2A of the Fast-Track Approvals Bill 2024

Tēnā koe,

1. On behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio (**Poutini Ngāi Tahu**) we write in support of Westpower's application for the Waitaha hydro scheme (the **Project**) to be listed in Schedule 2A of the Fast-Track Approvals Bill 2024.
2. Poutini Ngāi Tahu exercise tino rangatiratanga within our respective takiwā and are the kaitiaki of the natural and physical resources on the West Coast. The Waitaha River is located within our shared takiwā upon which the Project is proposed.
3. Poutini Ngāi Tahu strongly support the Project and have entered into a partnership agreement with Westpower in relation to the Project. If the approvals necessary to enable the development of the Project are granted and the Project proceeds, Poutini Ngāi Tahu and Westpower will be project partners, and Poutini Ngāi Tahu will have a financial interest in the project.
4. The Project would be of significant benefit to Poutini Ngāi Tahu providing an opportunity for us to reconnect with our whenua, and to benefit economically from the Project.
5. The Project will also benefit the wider West Coast community. There is a shared vision between Poutini Ngāi Tahu and Westpower to protect and advance the interests of the West Coast; its economy and environment. The Project would provide electrical resilience to the region, via green-renewable energy. Poutini Ngāi Tahu is keen to ensure security of supply for the West Coast, noting:
 - a. additional power generation will reduce the amount of energy being transmitted to the region, reducing transmission charges; and
 - b. the sharing of the benefits of the Project with comparatively cheaper power (and line charges) for the West Coast.
6. This is important to us as part of our obligation is to provide for our iwi and manaaki visitors and the community well.
7. Security of supply is also an important consideration in the Ngāi Tahu Climate Change strategy He Rautaki mō te Huringa o te Āhuarangi. In particular, Poutini Ngāi Tahu see the impact of climate change on it and the conservation of taonga within its takiwā as hugely

significant issues. We see renewable energy as part of the solution and therefore strongly support the Project.

8. The Project would also create much-needed employment and training opportunities and would provide significant investment for the region supporting existing and new industry to grow.
9. Poutini Ngāi Tahu also consider the Project to be consistent with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.
10. Poutini Ngāi Tahu strongly support listing the Project in Schedule 2A of the Fast-Track Approvals Bill 2024 because it will assist us in realising not only our direct interest in the Project but the broader benefits for the West Coast communities for generally.



Francois Tumahai
Chairman
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae



Paul Madgwick
Chairman
Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio