



2020-B-07359

9 December 2020

Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Energy and Resources; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Trade and Export Growth; Land Information; Rural Communities; Economic and Regional Development; Defence; Māori Development; Transport; Conservation; and Climate Change

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on application for referral

This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act).

The aim of the Act is to urgently promote employment to support Aotearoa's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, and meet Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

The proposed project is described in the enclosed schedule, and a copy of the application is electronically attached.

I invite you to provide written comments on the proposed project under section 21(2) of the Act. I note that if this project is referred to an expert consenting panel for determination, the applicant will then be required to lodge a more detailed application including an environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment with the Environmental Protection Authority. You will have a further opportunity at that stage to provide comments on the application to the expert consenting panel.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish me to take them into consideration when making a decision on whether to refer the application to an expert consenting panel.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', is positioned below the closing 'Yours sincerely'.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Enclosures:

- A. Schedule of proposed project
- B. Application to refer Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

Appendix A - Schedule of proposed project

Project details	Project location	Project description
Application name Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project Applicant Hiringa Energy Limited ("Hiringa") and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited ("Ballance")	271 – 359 Kokiri Road, Kapuni, Taranaki (the "PKW Farm" – site for the wind turbines). 309 Palmer Road, Kapuni, Taranaki (the "Ballance Kapuni Plant"). The applicant is proposing two options for underground electricity cable alignment between the PKW Farm and the Ballance Kapuni Plant, as follows: Option 1 – via 414 Kokiri Road, 15 Palmer Road and Kokiri Road legal road reserve. Option 2 – via unnumbered land on Palmer Road, Skeet Road legal road reserve, 1101 Skeet Road and 1128 Skeet Road.	To develop a renewable hydrogen hub including generation of renewable electricity for baseload power to the existing Ballance Kapuni ammonia-urea manufacturing plant, and to produce green hydrogen from water via electrolysis. The resulting green hydrogen will be used as follows: - Initially 100% by the Ballance Kapuni Plant by being combined with atmospheric nitrogen to produce ammonia and green urea - Over a 10-year period a planned transition to approximately 90% usage as a fuel for the transport sector as the hydrogen transport market develops - In support of the development of a green hydrogen energy and transport hub for South Taranaki. Excess power generated by the wind turbines during peak electricity production will be fed into the local distribution network. This is expected to be approximately 11.9MW. The project works involve the following activities: - Installation of four wind turbines with up to 24 MW of generation capacity on the PKW farm. The wind turbines will have a hub height of approximately 149m and a rotor diameter of 162m, resulting in an overall maximum height of approximately 230m. - Construction and installation of electrolysis plant and hydrogen production infrastructure within Ballance's Kapuni Plant site. - Construction and installation of hydrogen storage, loadout and refueling facilities within the Balance Kapuni Plant site. - Installation of underground power cables and associated buildings and structures to convey electricity from the PKW farm to the Balance Kapuni Plant.