



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Aide Memoire:

Recommendation to invite comments from two further parties on FTC #29: Application for referral of a project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

Stage 1 decision on Application 2020-29 - Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project

Date Submitted:	15 December 2020	Tracking: MfE 2020-B-07359
Security Level	In-Confidence	MfE Priority: Urgent

From:

Madeleine Berry	Programme Manager Fast Track Consenting Ministry for the Environment
Contact	s 9(2)(a)

To:

Hon David Parker	Minister for the Environment
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Purpose

1. The purpose of this aide memoire is to seek your agreement to invite written comments from two further parties, Nova Energy Limited and Transpower NZ Limited, on an application for referral of a project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the FTCA).
2. This decision relates to Application 2020-28 – the 'Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project' to develop a renewable hydrogen hub at Kapuni, Taranaki.

Background

3. Table A: of MfE 2020-B-07359 (briefing note) states:
 - "Given that the project involves exporting excess power to the local distribution network, comment should be sought from Powerco at this referral stage (as the network utility provider who own and operate the 33KV network lines to which a connection is proposed)"
4. You agreed to seek written comments on this application from Powerco Limited.

5. The applicant, via email from their agent on 14 December 2020, has clarified that the project has two options for a transmission grid connection.
 - a. The first connection is via the 33kV Powerco distribution network which would connect into the national grid system at Hawera.
 - b. The second option is via the 110kV Nova Energy Limited private distribution line at Kapuni that connects into the national grid line between Stratford and Opunake.

The applicant has advised that both options have been assessed as technically viable, however the focus is currently on pursuing an agreement with Nova Energy Limited.

6. The applicant has clarified that energy will connect into the national grid (owned and operated by Transpower NZ Limited). We are unsure of the impacts on Transpower's assets and the applicant has not commented further on this issue.
7. We therefore recommend that you invite comments on this application from Nova Energy Limited and Transpower NZ Limited in addition to PowerCo. Comments from all three entities are helpful to determine power connection and project feasibility and therefore the potential of the Project to achieve the purpose of the FTCA.

Recommended action

- a. We recommend you:

agree to invite written comments from Nova Energy Limited and Transpower NZ Limited.

Signed:

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date: