



2021-B-07533

**23 FEB 2021**

Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited  
C/- Cam Twigley  
BTW Company Limited  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Mr Twigley

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 - Notice of Decision (Section 25)  
– Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project**

Thank you for Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited's application under section 20 of COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA) seeking that the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project (the Project) be referred to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the FTCA.

The Project is to construct and operate a renewable hydrogen hub involving the generation of renewable electricity to provide baseload power to the Ballance Kapuni ammonia-urea plant, and to produce green hydrogen from water via electrolysis at the plant. The Project comprises four wind turbines and associated electricity infrastructure, an electrolysis plant and hydrogen production infrastructure, hydrogen storage, loadout facilities and associated works.

The Project site for the wind turbines is located at 271 – 359 Kokiri Road, Kapuni, Taranaki (the PKW Farm), and the electrolysis plant and hydrogen production infrastructure are to be located at 309 Palmer Road, Kapuni, Taranaki (the Ballance Kapuni Plant). Two options proposed for underground electricity cable alignment are located between the two sites.

The purpose of the FTCA is to urgently promote employment to support New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support the certainty of ongoing investment across New Zealand, while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

I can only refer a project to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the FTCA, if the project meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA which includes me being satisfied the project will help achieve the FTCA's purpose.

I have decided the Project meets the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA and I consider the Project will help to achieve the FTCA's purpose as it has the potential to:

1. Generate employment by the creation of an average of 40 FTE jobs over an 18-month period covering engineering, design and construction (section 19(d)(i)).

2. Provide infrastructure that will contribute to improving economic and employment outcomes (section 19(d)(iv)).
3. Assist to improve environmental outcomes for air quality by lowering the level of emissions generated from combustion of natural gas at the Ballance Kapuni Plant (section 19(d)(v)).
4. Assist to improve environmental outcomes for air quality and assist New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low-emissions economy (subject to a successful future transition to the use of the green hydrogen as a fuel in the transport sector) (section 19(d)(v) and (vii)).
5. Progress faster by using the processes provided by the FTCA than would otherwise be the case (section 19(c)).

Any potential adverse effects arising from the application and mitigation measures are able to be considered and determined by an expert consenting panel having regard to Part 2 of the Resource Management Act and the purpose of the FTCA (section 4 and clause 31 Schedule 6).

Accordingly, I have decided to accept your application for referral under section 24(2) of the FTCA and refer all of the Project to an expert consenting panel.

*Information required to be submitted with your application*

In accordance with section 24(2)(d) of the FTCA, I have also decided that you must provide the information listed in Appendix A of this letter with any application for the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project lodged with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under clause 2 Schedule 6.

I consider that this information will inform a panel's assessment of the application's effects and whether to invite comment from persons or groups in addition to those specified in clause 17 Schedule 6 of the FTCA. This does not preclude a panel from requiring you to provide any additional information on any application lodged with the EPA under the FTCA.

*Persons or groups a Panel must invite comments from*

In accordance with section 24(2)(e) of the FTCA, I have also decided a panel must invite comments on any consent application for the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project lodged with the EPA from the persons and groups listed in Appendix A of this letter.

This will allow those parties the opportunity to have input into the application and enable a panel to better understand the potential effects of the proposal.

These directions do not preclude a panel from either inviting other parties to comment on any application lodged with the EPA under this FTCA.

The FTCA requires that:

1. I provide a copy of this decision to the persons, entities and groups specified in section 25(1) and (2) of the FTCA
2. My decision, the reasons for my decision and the section 17 report will be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website under section 25(3) of the FTCA.

In addition, I have also decided to provide a copy of this decision to the following parties:

1. the Taranaki Māori Trust Board

2. Ngāti Ruanui
3. the four additional Ngāruahine hapū who will not already receive a copy of this decision under section 25(1)(b) the FTCA:
  - Kanihi – Umutahi
  - Ngāti Haua
  - Ngāti Tamaahuroa me Tītahi
  - Ōkahu - Inuāwai

I will now progress an Order in Council through Executive Council for the Project. Once this Order is made you are able to lodge your application with the EPA for a consent decision by an expert consenting panel. Please do not publicly release my decision or this notice until the Order in Council for this Project has been approved by Cabinet and published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Please contact officials at the Ministry for the Environment ([fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz)) if you have any questions or wish to discuss this decision.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

cc Ministers of/for:

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

Local Authorities: South Taranaki District Council and Taranaki Regional Council

Iwi Authority: Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

Other Parties: Ngāti Tū, Ngāti Manuhiakai, Kanihi – Umutahi, Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Tamaahuroa me Tītahi, Ōkahu - Inuāwai, Ngāti Ruanui, Taranaki Māori Trust Board, Transpower New Zealand Limited, Powerco Limited, Nova Energy Limited

Environmental Protection Authority

The Panel Convener



**Appendix A – Requirements and timeframes specific to applications lodged by Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited for the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project**

***Information required to be submitted with your application***

In accordance with section 24(2)(d) of the FTCA, I have also decided that you must provide the following information with any application:

1. A landscape and visual assessment which must include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
  - i. photo montages (taken from a range of public vantage points and from a range of private properties beyond those immediately adjacent to the proposed wind turbine site), showing the scale of the proposed wind turbines in relation to views of Mount Taranaki
  - ii. assessment of the effects on sightlines of Mount Taranaki when viewed from sites of importance to Māori. The sites of importance to Māori shall be determined in consultation with Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust and Ngāruahine hapū
2. A cultural impact assessment prepared by or on behalf of the Taranaki Māori Trust Board as the collective representative of Ngā Iwi o Taranaki, or a statement of any reasons for not providing that assessment
3. An archaeological assessment
4. An ecological assessment which must include, but may not be limited to, consideration of the effects on indigenous vegetation, fauna, avifauna, aquatic ecology and local catchments
5. A traffic impact assessment which must include assessment of the effects of large-scale vehicles transporting turbine sections
6. An acoustic assessment which must include, but shall not be limited to, construction noise, details of safeguards and contingencies in relation to noise and vibration effects, and monitoring and reporting methods
7. A shadow flicker assessment
8. Information to address the matters listed in Section 20.5.10 Significant Hazardous Facilities of the South Taranaki District Plan (Operative 22 January 2021), including a risk assessment report.

***Persons or groups the Panel must invite comments from***

In accordance with section 24(2)(e) of the FTCA, I have also decided that the expert consenting panel must invite comments on any consent application for the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project from the following additional persons or groups:

1. The six hapū of Ngāruahine:
  - i. Ngāti Tū
  - ii. Ngāti Manuhiakai
  - iii. Kanihi – Umutahi
  - iv. Ngāti Haua
  - v. Ngāti Tamaahuroa me Tītahi
  - vi. Ōkahu - Inuāwai
2. Ngāti Ruanui
3. Taranaki Māori Trust Board
4. Transpower New Zealand Limited
5. Powerco Limited
6. Nova Energy Limited

Released under the provision of  
the Official Information Act 1982