

Application for a project to be referred to an expert consenting panel

(Pursuant to Section 20 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020)

For office use only:

Project name: Taheke Geothermal Project
Application number: PJ-0000834
Date received: 25/11/2022

This form must be used by applicants making a request to the responsible Minister(s) for a project to be referred to an expert consenting panel under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.

All legislative references relate to the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act), unless stated otherwise.

The information requirements for making an application are described in Section 20(3) of the Act. Your application must be made in this approved form and contain all of the required information. If these requirements are not met, the Minister(s) may decline your application due to insufficient information.

Section 20(2)(b) of the Act specifies that the application needs only to provide a general level of detail, sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the application, as opposed to the level of detail provided to an expert consenting panel deciding applications for resource consents or notices of requirement for designations.

We recommend you discuss your application and the information requirements with the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) before the request is lodged. Please contact the Ministry via email: fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz

The Ministry has also prepared [Fast-track guidance](#) to help applicants prepare applications for projects to be referred.

Part I: Applicant

Applicant details

Person or entity making the request: ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership – between The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporation and Eastland Generation Limited. Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information”.

Contact person: Stuart McDonnell

Job title: Eastland Generation Project Manager / Manager – Projects, Drilling and Geothermal Reservoirs

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Postal address:

C/- Eastland Group Limited
172 Carnarvon Street
PO Box 1048 Gisborne 4040
New Zealand

Address for service (if different from above)

Organisation: ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership

Contact person: Stuart McDonnell

Job title: Manager Major Capital Projects, Drilling and Geothermal Reservoirs

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Email address for service: s 9(2)(a)

Postal address:

95 Commerce Street
Whakatane 3120

Part II: Project location

The application: does not relate to the coastal marine area

If the application relates to the coastal marine area wholly or in part, references to the Minister in this form should be read as the Minister for the Environment and Minister of Conservation.

Site address / location:

A cadastral map and/or aerial imagery to clearly show the project location will help.

Taheke land blocks, State Highway 33, Okere, Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand
Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information”.

Legal description(s):

A current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title will help.

Lot 1 DPS 88406 comprised in RT SA69A/795
Okere 1A2 comprised in RT 509150
Part Otaramarae 3D1 comprised in RT 646099
Part Ruahine 1B comprised in RT 438880
Ruahine 1D comprised in RT SA1289/79
Okere 1C3D comprised in RT SA18B/1385

Taheke Papakainga 28 comprised in RT SA18B/1383

Ruahine 1C comprised in RT SA1289/78

Rotoiti 17 Block comprised in RT 505759

Lot 2 DPS 40578 comprised in RT SA36C/174

Please see enclosed Records of Title. As directed by MfE, Shapefiles (kml) will be sent by way of email.

Registered legal land owner(s):

Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information”.

Detail the nature of the applicant’s legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur, including a statement of how that affects the applicant’s ability to undertake the work that is required for the project:

The ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership has the right to request easements or leases (as appropriate) over relevant records of title through a confidential development agreement. The development agreement provides for any necessary approvals to be sought from shareholders, other owners and the Māori Land Court. However easements and any leases with a term (including renewals) of less than 52 years shall only require noting by the Māori Land Court pursuant to s 150B(3)(b)(iii) of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 as opposed to approval by shareholders and the Māori Land Court pursuant to s 150B(1)(b) of the Act.

The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporation is a limited partner of the ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership. Accordingly obtaining agreement for any necessary access to landblocks owned by Taheke 8C will not be an issue.

Taheke 8C entered into an Access Agreement dated 5 September 2012 which set out the ability to utilise the geothermal resource under RT 505759 and RT SA36C/174. These rights resulted in Easement Instrument 9603429.1 being registered on those records of title formalising the rights granted.

Taheke 8C, as the majority shareholder in RT 438880, and all other minority shareholders have agreed in writing allowing the ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership all necessary access to this land block to effect the Project. Records of Title SA69A/795, 509150, 646099, SA1289/79, SA18B/1385 and SA18B/1383 are subject to a Forestry Right Instrument in favour of Red Stag Limited. However the Forestry Right Instrument provides that the Forestry Right is subject to a Geothermal Use Right in favour of the landowner, being Taheke 8C, whereby if the landowner wishes to develop the geothermal resource under the land then there is a stipulated process for providing notice to Red Stag Limited allowing the landowner to use the land and potentially remove part of the Forestry Right.

Part III: Project details

Description

Project name: Taheke Geothermal Project

Project summary:

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 2-3 lines) of the proposed project.

The “Taheke Geothermal Project” is to develop a geothermal power station and abstract geothermal fluid from the Taheke geothermal field, near Okere Falls in the Rotorua Lakes District, use the fluid to generate electricity and to reinject it back into the resource. The Taheke geothermal field lies within the North Island’s Taupō Volcanic Zone.

Project details:

Please provide details of the proposed project, its purpose, objectives and the activities it involves, noting that Section 20(2)(b) of the Act specifies that the application needs only to provide a general level of detail.

Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information” for figures relating to geothermal power plants. Please also see enclosed “Cover Letter” for an overview of the Taheke Geothermal Project’s application.

The applicant

The proposed Taheke Geothermal Project is a partnership between Eastland Generation Limited and The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporation (**Taheke 8C**), and will take place on land owned by Taheke 8C, most of which is Māori freehold title.

Taheke 8C is a Māori land incorporation with more than 1,300 shareholders that acts as kaitiaki over the land to ensure that the land is developed sustainably. This project is intended to allow Taheke 8C to fulfil the development aspirations for their land and bring positive effects to current and future generations. Further, the Taheke Geothermal Project is intended to increase the supply of renewable electricity within New Zealand, which will contribute to the country's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low-emissions economy. Increasing the supply of electricity from geothermal resources also strengthens New Zealand's resilience to the effects of climate change as, unlike wind, solar and hydro electricity generation, geothermal electricity generation is not affected by changing atmospheric conditions such as increased storms and droughts.

Eastland Generation Limited is part of the Eastland Group Limited with its foundations in the Tairāwhiti Region. Eastland Generation currently owns and operates three geothermal power stations in Kawerau and the Waihi Hydro station in Hawkes Bay. Eastland Generation Limited's aim is to be involved in projects that are economically worthwhile, environmentally sound, socially responsible and culturally aware.

Taheke Geothermal Project

The proposed Taheke Geothermal Project is to be located approximately 18 kilometres north/north-east of Rotorua and two kilometres north-east of the Okere Village on land that is zoned Rural 1, and primarily within the Taheke 8C Development Area Overlay, and also within the Whangamoa Development Area, of the Rotorua Lakes District Plan. Further, the Taheke geothermal field is located in Geothermal Management Group 3 under the Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan.

The Proposal is to abstract geothermal fluid at an average daily extraction rate of up to 10,000 tonnes. The plant electrical output is expected to be a nominal 25 to 40MWe Nett. The final plant output will be optimised to ensure the highest efficiency and the sustainable use of the geothermal reservoir. The final electrical output will depend on the technology chosen and the final design efficiencies achieved during the detailed design process.

At this point the final design of the power station has not and will not be finalised. This is to allow for a competitive market approach to purchasing the power station and to allow the original equipment suppliers to optimise plant design in their individual offers. The effects experts have prepared their evidence on the basis of a "black box" approach taking the worst-case effect from the various technology options available.

Two conversion technologies are under consideration. These are a conventional geothermal steam turbine as used at the Mercury Energy Kawerau Geothermal Power Station, or an organic Rankine cycle plant similar to Eastland's exiting Te Ahi O Maui Ormat plant. The plant life is 35 years and consents are expected to reflect the plant life.

The production wells required for the Project will be located on Taheke 8C land within the area of the existing T8CP02 well. It is expected that four wells will be required initially (drilled into the Mourea fault), with up to another six wells required over the life of the plant. The Project will also involve re-injection of the fluid to ensure that the operation is sustainable. The injection areas are located on Taheke 8C land to the northwest and southeast of the production area at the outer edge of the known reservoir resistivity boundary, and over one kilometre from the production area. It is proposed that injection is deeper than the production depth to allow pressure support to the production areas but far enough away to allow fluids to fully heat. The plant will be connected to the national grid to provide electricity to the country.

Geothermal power plants

Geothermal power plants are used in order to generate electricity by the use of geothermal energy (the Earth's internal thermal energy). They essentially work the same as a coal or nuclear power plant, the main difference being the heat source. With geothermal, the Earth's heat replaces the boiler of a coal plant or the reactor of a nuclear plant.

Hot water or steam is extracted from the Earth through a series of wells and feeds the power plant. In most geothermal plants the water pulled up from the ground is returned to the subsurface. The rate of water extracted is often larger than the rate of water returned, so make-up water supplies are generally needed.

There are three main types of geothermal power plants, with the flash cycle being the most common. The choice of plant depends on how much geothermal energy is available, and the temperature of the resource. The hotter the

resource, the more useful it is, and less fluid needs to be taken from the ground. Some details of each plant may be seen below. Please note that the two conversion technologies are under consideration by the Partnership – a conventional geothermal steam turbine (which can be dry steam or flash cycle steam), or an organic Rankine cycle plant (binary cycle).

Dry steam plants

These plants use dry steam that is naturally produced in the ground. This steam travels from the production well to the surface and through a turbine, and after transferring its energy to the turbine it condenses and is injected back into the Earth. These are the oldest types of geothermal power plants, the first one was built back in 1904 in Italy. Because this type of power plant requires the highest temperatures they can only be used where the temperature underground is quite high, but this type requires the least fluid flow.

The dry steam plants at the Geysers in northern California, first drilled in 1924, are the largest geothermal source of electricity. At their peak production in the late 1980s they produced a whopping 2 GW of electricity - the equivalent of two large coal or nuclear power plants. However due to high rates of extraction, power has since declined to 1.5 GW of capacity, with an average output of less than 1 GW.

Flash cycle steam plants

These types are the most common due to the lack of naturally occurring high-quality steam. In this method, water must be over 180°C, and under its own pressure flows upwards through the well. This is a lower temperature than dry steam plants have. As its pressure decreases, some of the water "flashes" to steam, which is passed through the turbine section. The remaining water that did not become steam is cycled back down into the reservoir, or can also be used for heating purposes. The cost of these systems is increased due to more complex parts, however they can still compete with conventional power sources.

Binary cycle plants

Binary power plants are expected to be the most commonly used type of geothermal power plant in the future, as locations outside of the known hot spots begin to use geothermal energy. This is because binary cycle plants can make use of lower temperature water than the other two types of plants. They use a secondary loop (hence the name "binary") which contains a fluid with a low boiling point, such as pentane or butane. The water from the well flows through a heat exchanger to transfer its heat to this binary fluid, which vaporizes due to its low boiling point. The binary fluid then passes through a turbine, accomplishing the same task as steam.

Where applicable, describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging:

To date the Project has completed two deep production wells and three slim hole exploration wells. Further information on how the Project will be delivered is described below with respect to construction readiness.

Consents / approvals required

Relevant local authorities: Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua District Council

Resource consent(s) / designation required:

Land-use consent, Water permit, Discharge permit

Relevant zoning, overlays and other features:

Please provide details of the zoning, overlays and other features identified in the relevant plan(s) that relate to the project location.

Legal description(s)	Relevant plan	Zone	Overlays	Other features
Please see enclosed document "Combined Maps" for location of zones, overlays and other features.	Rotorua Lakes District Plan (District Plan)	Rural 1 Zone	Taheke 8C Development Area G	Significant Natural Area 669 – Taheke Geothermal Area (surface feature in the centre);

Legal description(s)	Relevant plan	Zone	Overlays	Other features
				- Significant Natural Area 670 – Taheke Forest; - Significant Natural Area 678 – Upper Kaituna - Transpower Overhead lines; - Designation RDC-835 Trout Pools Reserve; - Rotorua Airport Clearance to Obstacle Limitation Surface.
Please see enclosed document “Combined Maps” for location of zones, overlays and other features.	District Plan	Rural 1 Zone	Whangamoa Development Areas B and B1	- Flood Level Lake Rotoiti 280.46 asl - Significant Natural Area 176 – Te Wēta Bay Geothermal Area - Rotorua Airport Clearance to Obstacle Limitation Surface.
Please see enclosed document “Combined Maps” for location of zones, overlays and other features.	Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP)	NA	NA	Geothermal Management Group 3

Rule(s) consent is required under and activity status:

Please provide details of all rules consent is required under. Please note that Section 18(3)(a) of the Act details that the project **must not include** an activity that is described as a prohibited activity in the Resource Management Act 1991, regulations made under that Act (including a national environmental standard), or a plan or proposed plan.

Relevant plan / standard	Relevant rule / regulation	Reason for consent	Activity status	Location of proposed activity
District Plan	THDA-R3(2)	Establishment of power station, associated activities and structures and steamfield operations	Controlled	Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information” for site/location map.
District Plan	THDA-R5(1)	Associated activities required for renewable geothermal energy development	Controlled	Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application

				Information" for site/location map.
District Plan	EW-R1(2)	Earthworks associated with the development	Restricted discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
District Plan	EIT-R3(3)	Establishment of overhead lines connecting to the national grid/substation	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
District Plan	ET-R8(1)	Establishment of a substation	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
District Plan	HAZS-R13(2)	Storage of hazardous substances	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
RNRP	LM R4	Bulk earthworks associated with the establishment of the Site	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
RNRP	DW R8	Discharge of stormwater and associated condensate/contaminants to ground across the Site that is unable to meet the permitted activity	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
RNRP	GR R6	Formation and use of monitoring bores	Restricted discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
RNRP	GR R7	Drilling, construction and installation of geothermal bores (including reinjection)	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
RNRP	AIR-R16	Discharge to air from the geothermal activities, including	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further

		geothermal vapour and steam associated with the generation, wellhead and pipeline activities		Application Information" for site/location map.
RNRP	GR R7	Use of geothermal water, heat or energy	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.
RNRP	43	Take and use of surface water from the Kaituna River	Discretionary	Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information" for site/location map.

Resource consent applications already made, or notices of requirement already lodged, on the same or a similar project:

Please provide details of the applications and notices, and any decisions made on them. Schedule 6 clause 28(3) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 details that a person who has lodged an application for a resource consent or a notice of requirement under the Resource Management Act 1991, in relation to a listed project or a referred project, must withdraw that application or notice of requirement before lodging a consent application or notice of requirement with an expert consenting panel under this Act for the same, or substantially the same, activity.

Please see enclosed "Taheke Geothermal Project - Further Application Information".

Resource consent(s) / Designation required for the project by someone other than the applicant, including details on whether these have been obtained:

None have been identified at this stage.

Other legal authorisations (other than contractual) required to begin the project (eg, authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 or concessions under the Conservation Act 1987), including details on whether these have been obtained:

- An archaeological authority would be required for the Taheke Geothermal Project if it was determined that an archaeological site was present and effects on it cannot be avoided, or if any further archaeological remains were exposed during development. To avoid potential delays should unidentified subsurface features be exposed by the proposed works, consideration will be given to applying for an authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 in advance of the development.
- Movement of over-dimension and overweight components by road is facilitated by the Land Transport Rule – Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016 (Rule 41001). Under the rule, permits will be required from the Road Controlling Authority for any overweight and over dimension components associated with the Taheke Geothermal Project. If necessary, these permits will be applied for at the detailed design stage of the Project.
- Written Approval from the Rotorua Airport as a Requiring Authority for any works within the Rotorua Airport Clearance to Obstacle Limitation Surface.
- Consideration is being given to whether easements are required for transmission lines. Transpower were undertaking a Connection Study.

Construction readiness

If the resource consent(s) are granted, and/or notice of requirement is confirmed, detail when you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed:

Please provide a high-level timeline outlining key milestones, e.g. detailed design, procurement, funding, site works commencement and completion.

Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information” for a schematic of the development timeline. Please also see enclosed “Cover Letter” for an overview of the Taheke Geothermal Project’s application.

The development timeline for the Taheke Geothermal Project commenced with the signing of the Project Development Agreement between The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporated and Eastland Generation Limited on the 17th of December 2019. The Project Development Agreement sets out the rights and obligations of the parties. Together the parties are known as the ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Partnership (**‘the Partnership’**).

Development approach is based on previous geothermal development experience and is in line with the industry approach in New Zealand.

In 2020, the Project received funding as a shovel-ready project from the Infrastructure Reference Group to ensure the consenting and construction of an exploratory geothermal well. The focus of the project in 2020 was to secure resource consents from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for the drilling and testing of geothermal exploration wells and associated infrastructure and earthworks. The exploration consents (RM20-0847 described earlier) were granted in May 2021.

With the exploration consents secured, detailed geoscientific work to understand the Taheke geothermal reservoir commenced, which culminated with targets being identified for the second exploration well to be drilled.

2021 saw the first well designed and well materials procured, followed by contracting of the Greymouth Petroleum Drill Rig 246 and associated drilling services from Halliburton. The well, T8CP02 was spudded on August 2021 and completed early October 2021. Once completed, the well was left to heat up and normalise.

T8CP02 was then tested in the first half of 2022, with the results of the tests then analysed to allow the geothermal reservoir to be understood. During this period the Geophysics, Geology, well performance and well chemistry were analysed and the outputs fed into the conceptual and numerical reservoir models. The outputs of this work have given the Taheke Geothermal Project Team confidence that the reservoir can be sustainably and commercially developed.

With the current investment at Taheke currently at around s 9(2)(b)(iii), including the well costs and testing since 2020, that amounts to approximately s 9(2)(b)(ii) the next step is to secure resource consents to allow sustainable development of the Taheke geothermal reservoir, for the purposes of generating renewable electricity for New Zealand.

It is anticipated that the Fast Track Resource Consent process will shorten the time to develop the project by at least 2 – 3 years, and potentially 4 – 5 years if the normal consenting process progressed to an Environment Court hearing. The timeline above assumes that all resource consents required to advance the Taheke Geothermal Project will be granted by mid-2023 calendar year. Assuming the consents are granted with conditions that allow commercial development, then the next stage would be to drill further production and injection wells to secure the requisite geothermal energy to allow conversion to electricity.

The current timeline assumes materials and drilling services can be secured and drilling completed by late 2024 or mid-year 2025 dependant on drill rig availability. 2025 would also see the detailed steam field and piping design, civil engineering and design, and transmission line design advanced. In parallel, a contestable contract would be provided to qualified original equipment power station providers.

On the basis that the power station, civil, transmission and steamfield works are at a price point that allows for a suitable return on investment, then the Partnership would expect to make a final investment decision regarding development late in 2025 or early 2026.

The normal build time for a power station of this scale is approximately 24 months, however this is somewhat dependant on the world economies at that time. Assuming some delays will occur, it is expected that commercial operations would commence in 2028. This would not be the case if the Project is subject to the normal consenting pathway.

The design life of the power station would be 25 years and the operating plant life, based on other New Zealand and International geothermal power stations would be 30 plus years.

Given the significant investment in a project of this nature, it is the Partnership’s position that the works carried out in the first two years after the granting of resource consents would give effect to the resource consents. While the final

investment decision regarding development is not expected until late 2025 or early 2026, that does not mean that the project is not “shovel ready”. If consents are granted mid-2023 then well drilling can commence and is expected to be completed by late 2024 or mid-year 2025. This type of timeframe is inevitable for projects of this nature. As set out above, in 2020, the Project received funding as a shovel-ready project from the Infrastructure Reference Group to ensure the consenting and construction of an exploratory geothermal well. In a press release released by the Beehive, the then Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters said that:

“This opens up opportunities for Taheke 8C and its Māori shareholders with ongoing revenue for their own development aspirations with the creation of 190 jobs, while growing Eastland’s renewable energy portfolio”

In terms of deliverability, Eastland Generation Limited has an 85% interest in the Partnership. It is part of the Eastland Group which has a total asset value approaching S 9(2)(b)(ii). Eastland has a demonstrated track record in operating and/or constructing geothermal power plants including Geothermal Developments Limited (9 MW), TOPP1 (26 MW), and Te Ahi O Maui (25 MW). Te Ahi O Maui is a geothermal power plant in Kawerau built from the ground up. Its ownership is structured in a similar way to the Taheke Geothermal Project in that it is a partnership between Eastland Generation Limited (94%) and the Māori landowners on which the geothermal power plant is located (the Kawerau A8D Ahu Whenua Trust). Te Ahi O Maui received resource consents in 2014 and was commissioned in 2018. As at 31 March 2022 the geothermal power plant owned by the Te Ahi O Maui Limited Partnership had a carrying value and fair value of S 9(2)(b)(ii)

Part IV: Consultation

Government ministries and departments

Detail all consultation undertaken with relevant government ministries and departments:

The Taheke Proposal has been introduced to Ministers, who have highlighted that they will be happy to engage further with the Partnership, following lodgement of the Fast Track Application.

Local authorities

Detail all consultation undertaken with relevant local authorities:

Rotorua Lakes Council (‘RDC’) – Meetings were held with Gina Rangi (Deputy Chief Executive - Te Arawa Partnership) on 27 and 29 September 2022 to introduce the Project.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council (‘BOPRC’) – A meeting was held with Ella Tennent (Principal Advisor, Consents), Penny Doorman (Geothermal Programme Leader) and Mary Pappon (Senior Consents Planner) of BOPRC on the 31st of August 2022 to provide an introduction to the Taheke Geothermal Project, the Project team, activities to be undertaken as part of the project and resource consents required. BOPRC expressed a keen interest in being involved in the Project during this meeting and in reviewing technical information as it is completed.

Other persons/parties

Detail all other persons or parties you consider are likely to be affected by the project:

Transpower – A meeting was held with Transpower’s Relationship Manager – Vanessa Head on the 10th of August 2022 to discuss the Taheke Geothermal Project and connection options available. Transpower are currently undertaking a preliminary Connection Study further to this meeting and will provide recommendations regarding the same for the Project when completed. It is noted that the preliminary Connection Study is not available as yet. A follow up meeting with Transpower has been undertaken with Vanessa Head on 14 September 2022. Further to the preliminary Connection Study, a detailed connection study will occur. This will commence once the Project final output is determined in late 2023.

The Partnership has either met with the following parties previously in relation to well drilling, or met with the organisations on a preliminary basis, and they will be consulted further and updated on the project:

- Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency (‘Waka Kotahi’) – Further to initial consultation, a meeting to introduce Waka Kotahi to the Project was held with Mr Bloxham on the 4th of October 2022. Waka Kotahi have noted that they will be interested in reviewing the Traffic Assessment, once complete.

- Department of Conservation – ('DoC') - DoC was consulted when work was undertaken by NIWA to inform the Proposal in 2020.
- The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Incorporated ('F&B') – Judy Gardner of F&B was consulted when work was undertaken by NIWA to inform the Proposal in 2020. In more recent consultation with Lesley Swindells, F&B have indicated that they would like to review the Landscape and Natural Character, Air and Ecology Assessments, once complete.
- Fish and Game Eastern Region ('F&G') – One meeting has occurred to introduce F&G to the Proposal.
- Rotorua Rafting and Kaituna Cascades Rafting - Both Rotorua Rafting and Kaituna Cascades Rafting were consulted prior to the commencement of well drilling associated with the Proposal.
- Rotorua and North Island kayaking clubs – A number of Rotorua and North Island Kayaking Clubs were consulted prior to the commencement of well drilling associated with the Proposal.

The Partnership identifies the following additional parties for consultation:

- Rotorua Airport (Requiring Authority) – An initial phone discussion with Julie Southall of Rotorua Airport occurred on the 21st of September 2022. Julie had some questions about the plume from the Project, and how it might affect the approach to landing at the Airport. A further meeting is scheduled for late November / early December 2022.
- Rafting Adventure, New Zealand
- Recreational kayakers

The Partnership intends to hold two public meetings, including at least one at the Taheke Opatia Marae, to inform the public about the project. A further meeting is to occur at the Okere General Store and Beer Garden. Both meetings will be publicly advertised and preparations for the same are underway.

The Partnership does not consider there to be any adverse effects on the rural-residential environment, including the properties off Otaramarae Road.

Detail all consultation undertaken with the above persons or parties:

As above.

Part V: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

For help with identifying relevant iwi authorities, you may wish to refer to [Te Kāhui Māngai – Directory of Iwi and Māori Organisations](#).

Iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities

Detail all consultation undertaken with Iwi authorities whose area of interest includes the area in which the project will occur:

Iwi authority	Consultation undertaken
Te Arawa Iwi and Hapū	None
Ngāti Pikiao (Te Runanga o Ngati Pikiao)	None
Ngāti Māhino	None
Ngāti Uenukukuōpako	None
Ngāti Tūrangitukua	None
Te Pūmautanga o Te Arawa Trust	None

Detail all consultation undertaken with Treaty settlement entities whose area of interest includes the area in which the project will occur:

Treaty settlement entity	Consultation undertaken
Te Arawa Lakes Trust	None

Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapū	None
Ngāti Makino	None
Waitaha	None
Tapuika	None
Ngāti Rangiteaorere	None

Treaty settlements

Treaty settlements that apply to the geographical location of the project, and a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements, including any statutory acknowledgement areas:

Section 18(3)(b) of the Act details that the project **must not include** an activity that will occur on land returned under a Treaty settlement where that activity has not been agreed to in writing by the relevant land owner.

- Te Arawa Lakes Trust: Bed of Lake Rotoiti
- Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapū: Part of the Kaituna River
- Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapū: Geothermal System
- Ngāti Makino: Part of Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve
- Waitaha: Part of the Kaituna River
- Tapuika: Kaituna River
- Ngāti Rangiteaorere: Tikitere Geothermal Field

The Taheke Geothermal Project does not include activities that will occur on land returned under a Treaty settlement.

Part VI: Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011

Customary marine title areas

Customary marine title areas under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 that apply to the location of the project:

Section 18(3)(c) of the Act details that the project **must not include** an activity that will occur in a customary marine title area where that activity has not been agreed to in writing by the holder of the relevant customary marine title order.

N/A

Protected customary rights areas

Protected customary rights areas under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 that apply to the location of the project:

Section 18(3)(d) of the Act details that the project **must not include** an activity that will occur in a protected customary rights area and have a more than minor adverse effect on the exercise of the protected customary right, where that activity has not been agreed to in writing by the holder of the relevant protected customary rights recognition order.

N/A

Part VII: Adverse effects

Description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment, including greenhouse gas emissions:

In considering whether a project will help to achieve the purpose of the Act, the Minister may have regard to, under Section 19(e) of the Act, whether there is potential for the project to have significant adverse environmental effects.

Please provide details on both the nature and scale of the anticipated and known adverse effects, noting that Section 20(2)(b) of the Act specifies that the application need only provide a general level of detail.

Please see enclosed “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information” for a description of the adverse effects.

Part VIII: National policy statements and national environmental standards

General assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard:

National Environmental Standards relevant to the Proposal:

National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009

The Proposal will result in the construction of infrastructure to facilitate a connection to the existing National Electricity Grid and as such, the NES Electricity Transmission Activities 2009 (**‘NES-ET’**) is applicable. The proposed works will include earthworks and the construction of electricity transmission structures. It is anticipated that all works will comply with the permitted activity standards of the regulations and be undertaken in agreement with Transpower.

National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020

The National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (**‘NES-F’**) came into effect on the 3rd of September 2020. The NES-F set requirements for certain activities that present risks to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. The Proposal does not require vegetation clearance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland; earthworks within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland; or the taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within or within 100 m setback from, a natural wetland. Given this, the Proposal does not require consent under the NES-F.

Dr Vaughan Keesing of Boffa Miskell has undertaken an Ecological Assessment of the Taheke site. In undertaking his assessment Dr Keesing notes that six natural inland wetlands were recognised on the Taheke site following the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2020) (**‘NPS-FM’**) protocol. Having highlighted the location of the wetlands to the Partnership, the Partnership has confirmed that they are able to site infrastructure and activities at a distance of more than 100 metres from any of the natural wetlands and thus do not require consent under the NES-F.

National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health

The BOPRC mapping system does not identify the Site as containing any activities or industries on the Hazardous Activities and Industries List (**‘HAIL’**). Similarly, a review of the historic aerial photos of the Site do not identify any activities that are ‘more likely than not’ to have been a HAIL operating on the Site. As a result of this, it is considered that the Site is not a ‘Piece of Land’ and further consideration under the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (**‘NES-CS’**) is not required.

National Policy Statements Relevant to the Proposal:

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (**‘NPS-FM20’**) came into effect on the 3rd of September 2020. The NPS-FM supports improved freshwater management in New Zealand and sets out what local authorities must do to give effect to the objectives and policies in Part 2 of the NPS-FM.

The fundamental concept of the NPS-FM is Te Mana o te Wai, which is of relevance to all freshwater management.

The key objective of the NPS-FM is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises; first, the health and wellbeing of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems, second, the health and needs of people, and third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.

The Proposal is able to be managed so that the temporary effects of earthworks on waterbodies, both wetlands and the river, are avoided. It is noted that no direct discharge of untreated water to any natural waterbodies is proposed.

The proposed abstraction of water from the Kaituna River is no greater than the existing authorised abstraction and thus, within the allocation limits.

The Proposal will provide for a secure supply of electricity to the community, in an area that is identified as having an under-supply of locally generated electricity. As the proposed Taheke Geothermal Project is a Partnership between The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporated and Eastland Generation Limited, Tangata whenua have been involved throughout the development of the Project, on all matters, including but not limited to, environmental considerations.

Ultimately, it is considered that the Proposal is consistent with the outcomes sought by the NPS-FM.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

The objective of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 ('NPS-REG') is to "recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation". The NPS-REG identifies that the need to develop, operate, maintain and upgrade renewable electricity generation activities throughout New Zealand; and the benefits of renewable electricity generation are matters of national significance.

The Taheke Geothermal Project relates to the construction and operation of a Geothermal Power Station. The management of the Project will result in the production of an additional 25 to 40 MW of renewable electricity generation. The Proposal includes reinjection to sustain the resource and will provide 'on-call' electricity generation close to established urban areas and with a direct connection into the National Grid. Consequently, the Proposal is consistent with Policy A.

Policy B recognises that the meeting the government's national target for renewable generation will require significant development. The Taheke Geothermal Project will provide additional renewable generation capacity and therefore directly give effect to this policy. Similarly, Policy C1 directs decision makers to have particular regard to the practicalities of renewable electricity generation, including the need to be located close to the resource and to the infrastructure to connect to the national grid. In this instance, the Project is to be located directly adjacent to the resource that it will utilise and to the existing transmission lines. Further, there are limited sensitive activities in the vicinity of the Site, therefore reducing the potential reverse sensitivity effects on the generation activities.

Consequently, the proposed location and scale of development is ideally suited to achieving the outcomes of the NPS-REG.

National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission

The National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission ('NPS-ET') recognises the need to operate, maintain, develop and upgrade the electricity transmission network, as a matter of national importance. The Taheke Geothermal Project will directly result in an increase in renewable electricity being generated. The Project Site contains both 220 and 110 kV lines managed by Transpower as part of the National Grid. It is proposed that a connection will be established directly to this existing infrastructure as a result of the Proposal. The existing transmission lines are well separated from public view and it is proposed that the connection will also have limited exposure to public viewpoints. Similarly, the proposed transmission route is able to be developed so as to avoid adverse effects on the environment, including avoiding areas of ecological value and existing geothermal surface features. The ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership has engaged with Transpower, as owner of the National Grid. This engagement has not identified any impediment to the implementation of the Proposal. Consequently, it is considered that the Proposal is consistent with the NPS-ET.

National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

The National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land will be relevant to small part of the land which is LUC 3 under the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory (NZLRI Land Use Capability 2021 - Informatics Team | | Environment and Land GIS | LRIS Portal (scinfo.org.nz)). Within that area the project will involve a transmission line and substation. These activities are not contrary to the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land on the basis that they are small-scale activities which will not impact the productive capacity of the land, and take place on specified Māori land.

Part IX: Purpose of the Act

Your application must be supported by an explanation how the project will help achieve the purpose of the Act, that 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”.

In considering whether the project will help to achieve the purpose of the Act, the Minister may have regard to the specific matters referred to below, and any other matter that the Minister considers relevant.

Project’s economic benefits and costs for people or industries affected by COVID-19:

Peter Clough (NZIER) has been engaged to provide an economic assessment of the Taheke Geothermal Project in accordance with the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020. This assessment is enclosed, and summarised in the enclosed document titled “Taheke Geothermal Project – Further Application Information”. Please also see enclosed “Cover Letter” for an overview of the Taheke Geothermal Project’s application.

Project’s effects on the social and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations:

The Taheke Geothermal Project will provide a source of power, local employment, and income to tangata whenua, to support social and cultural wellbeing for current and future generations for decades to come. In this regard, providing jobs and incomes to the region provides social as well as economic benefits. Further, (and as noted by Mr Clough in his economic assessment), creating and sustaining jobs in a region may provide money, boosts living standards and wards off poverty; improves health and access to health care for workers and their families; provides social contact and contributes to social cohesion; and contributes to people’s life satisfaction and sense of identity.

The Māori owners of the Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporated will also receive rent from the lease of the land and dividends from the profits of the operation after its debt is reduced. Those can be used to fund longer term economic development for their people through investment in training and job creating ventures. This project will allow Taheke 8C to fulfil their development aspirations for their land and bring positive effects to current and future generations.

Whether the project would be likely to progress faster by using the processes provided by the Act than would otherwise be the case:

The COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 will allow the Taheke Geothermal Project to progress faster than would otherwise be the case, bringing those benefits forward into the near-term post-COVID recovery period. In this regard, the fast-track process enables a decision on the Proposal to be made within a shorter timeframe, both by reducing the time between lodgement of the application with the EPA and a consent decision by the Expert Consenting Panel, and by removing the Environment Court stage, while still enabling the potential effects of the Proposal to be appropriately considered.

Eastland Generation Limited’s prior experience with standard consenting provides a comparison as follows:

- The resource consent application for the Te Ahi O Maui geothermal project (25 MW) was lodged with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in December 2012. Following notification, the matter was not heard until February 2014, with a decision in March 2014. However, following appeals (which were mediated and settled) resource consents from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council were not secured until July 2014 (total 19 month period).
- The resource consent application for Geothermal Developments Limited (9 MW) was lodged with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in April 2012 and involved the replacement of resource consents. Following notification, the matter was heard in May 2013, with a decision in June 2013. However, following appeals (which were mediated and settled) resource consents from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council were not secured until January 2014 (total 20 month period).

The fast track process will be considerably shorter than this. As described earlier in this application, assuming some delays will occur, it is expected that commercial operations would commence in 2028. This would not be the case if the Project is subject to the normal consenting pathway. It is anticipated that the fast track process will shorten the time to develop the project by at least 2 – 3 years, and potentially 4 – 5 years if the normal consenting process progressed to an Environment Court hearing (which was not the case for the above consenting processes as they were mediated and settled).

Whether the project may result in a ‘public benefit’:

Examples of a public benefit as included in Section 19(d) of the Act are included below as prompts only.

Employment/job creation:

Geothermal power plants, by their very nature require a variety of jobs and skills, including welders; mechanics; pipe fitters; plumbers; machinists; electricians; carpenters; construction and drilling equipment operators; surveyors; architects and designers; geologists; hydrologists; electrical, mechanical, and structural engineers; managers; regulatory and environmental consultants; and various back office staff. While some of these jobs are more likely to come from the pool of specialised geothermal workers in Kawerau than from the displaced workforce in Rotorua, other jobs like construction labourers, security guards, plumbers, electricians are likely to come from Rotorua, which has suffered economic downturn as a result of COVID-19. Internationally, geothermal power stations require approximately 3.1 full time equivalent jobs per MW installed, which would equate to approximately 120 direct FTEs during construction. These jobs are over five years of power station construction, after some preliminary work on obtaining various consents, refining design and installing civil works. Once commissioned, there will be direct employment of four operational staff (4 FTEs), and there will also be work for around 30 contract roles to support activities like site security, ongoing maintenance and repairs, cleaning and transportation of supplies that amount to around 9.9 direct FTEs. Taking into account indirect FTEs, it is anticipated that there will be a total FTE impact of 255.5 during construction and 21 post-construction.

Housing supply:

N/A

Contributing to well-functioning urban environments:

N/A

Providing infrastructure to improve economic, employment, and environmental outcomes, and increase productivity:

As identified in the preceding sections of this application, the Taheke Geothermal Project will improve economic, employment and environmental outcomes, and increase the productivity of the labour market in the Rotorua District, and beyond. The Project will increase New Zealand's supply of renewable electricity and is located in close proximity to the existing national grid and state highway network. Further, the power station will result in the generation of electricity in an area that predominantly imports supplies to service the community, resulting in a more efficient and sustainable supply.

Improving environmental outcomes for coastal or freshwater quality, air quality, or indigenous biodiversity:

The Proposal will assist New Zealand in achieving its renewable energy target of 100% renewable energy by 2030. It is noted that geothermal electricity generation is not zero carbon generation, but it provides considerable environmental improvements, including much lower carbon emissions, than thermal generation alternatives. It is noted that the Partnership is investigating the feasibility of Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage ('BECCS') technology that will enable capture and reinjection of the CO₂ emissions, further enhancing the environmental benefits of the Proposal. This is expected to lower emissions further towards zero. BECCS is the process of extracting bioenergy from biomass and capturing and storing the carbon, thereby removing it from the atmosphere. The Taheke Geothermal Project will have the infrastructure required for BECCS to occur, being pipelines, injection wells and turbines. This technology proposes that by burning forestry waste, geothermal water can be supercharged to higher temperatures, producing even more renewable power, with the CO₂ from the biomass combustion dissolved into the geothermal water and injected back underground where it can slowly turn into rocks and be permanently trapped. Further, the design and implementation of the Proposal will result in potential effects on ecological and landscape values being avoided.

Minimising waste:

N/A

Contributing to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low-emissions economy (in terms of reducing New Zealand's net emissions of greenhouse gases):

While geothermal electricity generation is not zero carbon generation it has much lower carbon emissions than thermal generation alternatives. It is recognised that the amount of greenhouse gas emitted by geothermal generation depends on the characteristics of the geothermal source and the generation process used. However, whenever geothermal generation displaces fossil-fuelled generation there is substantial reduction in emissions per MWh. It is anticipated that the Proposal will reduce New Zealand's reliance on fossil fuel powered generation. Geothermal electricity generation is able to provide baseload and peak power demand.

Investigations to date have identified that the maximum CO₂ emissions from the Taheke Geothermal Project is approximately 41 grams of CO₂ per kWh of electricity. This value is below the median rate of emissions for geothermal energy. Further, it is noted that the Partnership is considering the feasibility of technology that will enable capture and reinjection of the CO₂ emissions, which could, in turn, lower emissions further towards zero. As previously identified, the Taheke Geothermal Project is expected to add 3% to New Zealand's geothermal generation capacity and 4% to its annual geothermal generation, contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low emissions economy. By locating in an area where electricity demand exceeds generation capacity it improves electricity supply by reducing transmission losses. It also improves resilience by providing a source of renewable power that is less affected by meteorological hazards of climate change than other forms of renewable generation.

Promoting the protection of historic heritage:

There are no known recorded archaeological sites or other sites of historic heritage within the footprint of the proposed Taheke Geothermal Project. The proposed construction methodology is intended to ensure that any significant sites are avoided in the first instance, if they are discovered through the implementation of the Taheke Geothermal Project. The Project will employ an Archaeological Management Plan and an Accidental Discovery Protocol. An Archaeological Authority will be applied for if effects on site cannot be avoided, or if any further archaeological remains were exposed during development.

Strengthening environmental, economic, and social resilience, in terms of managing the risks from natural hazards and the effects of climate change:

Electricity is a vital ingredient for modern societies, powering industrial production as well as consumption activities in residential settings. For some uses such as electronic appliances there is no substitute but it is not technically feasible to cost effectively store electricity in large quantities, so continuous supply is required if disruptive power outages are to be avoided. New Zealand has to be self-sufficient in its electricity supply. It does this with a mix of generation across both main islands, with a national transmission grid linking generation sources with areas of demand. Run continuously to meet baseload demands as well as during peak periods, geothermal generation can help conserve stored hydro for its more valuable uses in varying despatch to meet peak demands and displace thermal generation at the margin. Geothermal energy can generate 24 hours of the day, enabling it to provide power for lower cost off-peak applications, such as overnight charge up of electric vehicles and as a renewable source that doesn't vary with changing meteorological conditions it adds to resilience against the vagaries of weather. Consequently, geothermal generation complements other renewable generation from more variable energy sources, as every additional megawatt of geothermal power may allow installation of 3 to 5 megawatts of additional intermittent power like solar and wind on the grid. This approach directly assists New Zealand in achieving environmental, economic and social resilience.

The Rotorua District is in an area where the demand for electricity commonly exceeds the capacity of local generation plant to meet that demand, so power needs to be imported into the area along the national grid. To the extent that the new power station on the Taheke field supplies power that meets demand in the local area, it will reduce the requirement to import power from distant sources, and reduce the power lost in transmission over the grid. This in turn will strengthen the social and economic resilience of the Rotorua District.

Other public benefit:

It is considered that the benefits of the Taheke Geothermal Project have already been addressed within other parts of this section. In this regard, and as highlighted by Mr Clough in his Economic Assessment for the Project, public benefit from the project arises from:

- Generating employment, mainly in the construction phase
- Providing infrastructure that improves economic, employment and environmental outcomes through:
 - Temporary employment stimulus, especially in the short term during construction
 - Longer term supply of electricity at lower cost than some alternatives, hence contributing to the suppression of rising electricity prices that would otherwise occur in the absence of the Taheke development
 - Increasing productivity obtained from New Zealand's geothermal natural resources by bringing another geothermal field into productive use
 - Contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by helping to displace the use of fossil-fuelled thermal generation
- Contributing to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low emissions economy by inserting more low-carbon emission generation into New Zealand's supply portfolio
- Strengthening environmental, economic and social resilience by providing a source of renewable power that is less affected by meteorological hazards of climate change than other forms of renewable generation.

Whether there is potential for the project to have significant adverse environmental effects:

The known and potential adverse effects of the Taheke Geothermal Project have been set out in Part VII – Adverse Effects, and Part IX – Purpose of the Act, above. These sections highlight a number of known and potential adverse effects associated with the Proposal. While adverse effects have been highlighted, the conclusions reached by the various experts that that been retained to provide independent advice highlight that all of these effects may be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Part X: Climate change and natural hazards

Description of whether and how the project would be affected by climate change and natural hazards:

The Taheke Geothermal Project is intended to increase the supply of renewable electricity within New Zealand, which will contribute the country's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low-emissions economy. Increasing the supply of electricity from geothermal resources also strengthens New Zealand's resilience to the effects of climate change as, unlike wind, solar and hydro electricity generation, geothermal electricity generation is constant and independent of weather conditions therefore it is not affected by changing atmospheric conditions such as increased storms and droughts.

Part XI: Track record

A summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by a local authority under the Resource Management Act 1991, and the outcome of those actions:

Local authority	Compliance/Enforcement Action and Outcome
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership is not aware of any compliance / enforcement actions against the partnership.
Rotorua District Council	ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership is not aware of any compliance / enforcement actions against the partnership.

Part XII: Declaration

I acknowledge that a summary of this application will be made publicly available on the Ministry for the Environment website and that the full application will be released if requested.

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.

Megan Exton on behalf of Stuart McDonnell

25/11/2022

Signature of person or entity making the request

Date

Important notes:

- Please note that this application form, including your name and contact details and all supporting documents, submitted to the Minister for the Environment and/or Minister of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment, will be publicly released. Please clearly highlight any content on this application form and in supporting documents that is commercially or otherwise sensitive in nature, and to which you specifically object to the release.
- Please ensure all sections, where relevant, of the application form are completed as failure to provide the required details may result in your application being declined.
- Further information may be requested at any time before a decision is made on the application.
- Please note that if the Minister for the Environment and/or Minister of Conservation accepts your application for referral to an expert consenting panel, you will then need to lodge a consent application and/or notice of requirement for a designation (or to alter a designation) in the approved form with the Environmental Protection Authority. The application will need to contain the information set out in Schedule 6, clauses 9-13 of the Act.
- Information presented to the Minister for the Environment and/or Minister of Conservation and shared with other Ministers, local authorities and the Environmental Protection Authority under the Act (including officials at government departments and agencies) is subject to disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) or the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Certain information may be withheld in accordance with the grounds for withholding information under the OIA and LGOIMA although the grounds for withholding must always be balanced against considerations of public interest that may justify release. Although the Ministry for the Environment does not give any guarantees as to whether information can be withheld under the OIA, it may be helpful to discuss OIA issues with the Ministry for the Environment in advance if information provided with an application is commercially sensitive or release would, for instance, disclose a trade secret or other confidential information. Further information on the OIA and LGOIMA is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Checklist

Where relevant to your application, please provide a copy of the following information.

No	Correspondence from the registered legal land owner(s)
No	Correspondence from persons or parties you consider are likely to be affected by the project
No	Written agreement from the relevant landowner where the project includes an activity that will occur on land returned under a Treaty settlement.

No	Written agreement from the holder of the relevant customary marine title order where the project includes an activity that will occur in a customary marine title area.
No	Written agreement from the holder of the relevant protected customary marine rights recognition order where the project includes an activity that will occur in a protected customary rights area.