

[Suggested text of draft referral order]

Taheke Geothermal Project

Project referred to expert consenting panel

1. Name of project

The name of the project is the Taheke Geothermal Project (the **project**).

2. Authorised person

The authorised person for the project is ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership (a partnership between The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporation and Eastland Generation Limited).

3. Description of project

The scope of the project is to take and use geothermal fluid from the Taheke geothermal reservoir at an average daily extraction rate of up to 10,000 tonnes per day to generate electricity by –

- (a) Civil works for roading, well pads and power station platform;
- (b) Design and procurement of materials and services for production and injection wells;
- (c) Drilling and testing of production and reinjection wells;
- (d) Detailed design of the steam field, pipelines, power station and transmission lines;
- (e) Construction of the steam field, pipelines, power station and transmission lines; and
- (f) Generating and transmitting electricity and reinjecting spent geothermal fluid and gases to the Taheke geothermal reservoir.

The project is significant and is expected to take up to 5 years to implement in full. If resource consents are granted by the expert consenting panel then the resource consents will be given effect to when production and reinjection wells have been drilled.

4. Description of activities involved in project

The project may involve the following activities:

- (a) removing vegetation:
- (b) carrying out earthworks:
- (c) upgrading existing roads:
- (d) constructing roads and culverts:
- (e) constructing infrastructure, including—
 - (i) production and injection wells; and
 - (ii) hardstand areas; and
 - (iii) foundations and building pads for geothermal steamfield plant and power station; and

- (iv) electricity transmission structures:
- (f) Selecting power station with conversion technology comprising either conventional geothermal steam turbine or organic Rankine cycle plant:
- (g) installing the following equipment:
 - (i) turbines and generator; and
 - (ii) pumps; and
 - (iii) piping and valves; and
 - (iv) structural steel; and
 - (v) cooling tower and fans; and
 - (vi) tanks; and
 - (vii) electrical switchgear, control equipment; and
 - (viii) underground electrical and communication cables; and
 - (ix) substation and grid connection equipment; and
 - (x) electricity transmission lines, overhead electricity transmission conductors, and associated infrastructure:
- (h) taking, using and discharging geothermal fluid:
- (i) taking and using surface water and groundwater:
- (j) discharging stormwater (which may contain contaminants) onto land:
- (k) discharging contaminants to air and onto land:
- (l) carrying out any other activities that are—
 - (i) associated with the activities described in paragraphs (a) to (k); and
 - (ii) within the scope of the project as described in clause 3 of this schedule.

5. Approximate geographical location

The project will occur on land owned by The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks Incorporation approximately 18 kilometres north/north-east of Rotorua and two kilometres north-east of the Okere Village.

6. Further information to be submitted

The following information must be submitted to the panel with any consent application relating to the project (in addition to the information required by clause 9 of Schedule 6 of the Act):

- (a)

7. Persons who must be invited to comment on project

An expert consenting panel must invite comments on any consent application relating to the project from the following persons in addition to the persons listed in clause 17(6) of Schedule 6 of the Act:

- (a) the Minister of Energy and Resources; and
- (b) Transpower New Zealand Limited; and
- (c)

8. No further provision required

No further provision is necessary to give effect to decisions made by the Minister under section 24 of the Act in respect of the project.

Statement of reasons

This statement of reasons is published for the purposes of clause 4 of Schedule 3 of the Act

The Minister for the Environment has accepted this application for referral. The Minister considered the application against the criteria in the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act) and the Act's purpose, and sought and considered written comments from the relevant Ministers, the Rotorua District Council, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, and Transpower New Zealand Limited. The Minister has accepted this application for the following reasons:

- the project will help to achieve the purpose of the Act:
- the project will provide infrastructure to improve economic, employment and environmental outcomes:
- the project will generate employment by providing approximately 120 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over a 5-year construction period, and 9.9 ongoing direct FTE jobs once construction is complete:
- the project will contribute to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and to transition more quickly to an economy of low greenhouse gas emissions by increasing New Zealand's total amount of renewable energy generation:
- the project is likely to progress faster than would otherwise be the case under the Resource Management Act 1991 standard processes:
- any actual and potential effects on the environment, and proposed measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for any adverse effects, can be appropriately tested by an expert consenting panel against Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the purpose of the Act.