



BRF-2849

Hon Megan Woods and Hon Willie Jackson
Minister of Energy and Resources and Minister for Māori Development
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Hon Megan Woods and Hon Willie Jackson

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

ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership has applied to refer the Taheke Geothermal Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA.

The purpose of the FTCA is to promote employment to support New Zealand'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.

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If I accept the application and the project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to apply via the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA). A more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment(s) will be required as part of this process. You will have an opportunity to provide comments to the panel established to consider and decide these RMA approvals.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish me to take them into consideration when making my decision on whether or not to accept the referral application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

A. Description of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer Taheke Geothermal Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Appendix A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Taheke Geothermal Project	ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership	<p>The project is to construct, operate and maintain a geothermal power station with an output of approximately 25 to 40 Megawatts net (18 kilometres north-east of Rotorua and 2 kilometres north-east of Okere Village). The project involves the take and reinjection/injection of approximately 10,000 tonnes of geothermal fluid per day from the Taheke geothermal field and will include installation of approximately ten production wells, construction of pipelines, underground and overhead transmission lines for supplying electricity to the national grid, and other ancillary infrastructure and structures.</p> <p>The project includes two options for the design of the geothermal power station, either a conventional geothermal steam turbine or an organic Rankine cycle plant. The project seeks to enable either option, with the final option being selected through detailed design.</p>

