



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023

Portfolio **Environment**

On 26 June 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment has decided under section 24 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 to accept the applications for referral of the following projects to a panel:
 - 1.1 ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership's Taheke Geothermal Project;
 - 1.2 NZ Windfarms Limited's Te Rere Hau Wind Farm–Aokautere Extension project;
- 2 **noted** that the Taheke Geothermal Project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18(3) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and will help achieve the Act's purpose, as required by section 18(2) of the Act, as it has the potential to:
 - 2.1 generate employment by creating approximately 120 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over a 5-year design and construction period and approximately 10 ongoing FTE jobs;
 - 2.2 provide infrastructure that will contribute to improving economic and employment outcomes;
 - 2.3 contribute to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low-emissions economy by increasing New Zealand's renewable energy generation;
 - 2.4 progress faster using the Act's processes than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes;
- 3 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023 requires ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership to provide to an expert consenting panel with the information specified in Appendix three, attached to the submission under CAB-23-SUB-0274, which the Minister for the Environment specified under section 24(2) of the FTCA and outlined in the notice of decision on the referral application for the project;

- 4 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider ROOPU Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership's Taheke Geothermal Project to seek comments from the 14 additional parties listed in Appendix three to the submission under CAB-23-SUB-0244;
- 5 **noted** that the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm–Aokautere Extension project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18(3) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and will help achieve the Act's purpose, as required by section 18(2) of the Act, as it has the potential to:
- 5.1 generate employment by creating approximately 271 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs during construction, and 30 FTE jobs once construction is complete;
 - 5.2 provide infrastructure to improve economic, employment and environmental outcomes;
 - 5.3 contribute to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low emissions economy;
 - 5.4 progress faster using the Act's processes than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes;
- 6 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider NZ Windfarms Limited's Te Rere Hau Wind Farm–Aokautere Extension project to seek comments from the following four parties:
- 6.1 Minister of Energy and Resources;
 - 6.2 Transpower New Zealand Limited;
 - 6.3 Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency;
 - 6.4 Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated;
- 7 **authorised** submission to the Executive Council of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023 [PCO 25628/8.0];
- 8 **noted** that on 27 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to waive the standard 28-day rule relating to Orders in Council made under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 [CAB-20-MIN-0353];
- 9 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023 comes into force on 29 June 2023.

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet