



2020-B-07082

7 August 2020

Stefanie Rixecker  
Chief Executive Officer  
Environment Canterbury  
Email: [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

Dear Stefanie Rixecker

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project (CUWLP) Project Works and Workers' Village – Comments sought**

In the week commencing 3 August 2020, I received an application to refer the above project to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act). The proposed project is located within the Environment Canterbury.

The project is described as follows, and a copy of the application is attached:

***Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project (CUWLP) Project Works and Workers' Village***

To upgrade existing 220kV electricity transmission lines and construct and use land for a temporary Workers' Village. This project will increase the electricity transmission capacity between the Otago-Southland region and the Waitaki Valley. The works involve strengthening/upgrading parts of the transmission loop including:

- Duplexing the Roxburgh – Naseby – Livingstone circuits,
- Thermally upgrading the Cromwell – Twizel circuits, and
- Duplexing the Aviemore – Benmore circuits

I invite you to provide written comments on the proposed project pursuant to section 21(2) of the Act. I am seeking specific comment on the matters outlined in the table below, and any further information you consider relevant to my decision on whether to refer the project to an expert consenting panel. If it is more efficient to discuss this application, my officials from the Fast-track Consenting Team will be available for a discussion with you. Please contact officials at [fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz).

Also note that if I decide to refer the project to a panel, you will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine the application. Applicants will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects at this next stage and you will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel. The Ministry for the Environment has prepared guidance on local authority involvement with fast-track consenting projects which you can access on the Ministry for the Environment website.

Information requirements
1. Any local environmental or resource management issues that may affect, or be affected by this project.
2. Local iwi contacts other than Ngai Tahu, and details on any accords or agreements you have with iwi that relate to decision-making on resource consents. This will help identify who the expert consenting panel could seek comment from.
3. Local groups with an interest in energy, freshwater, biodiversity and environmental issues. This will help identify who the expert consenting panel could seek comment from.
4. Transpower's compliance history in the Canterbury region.



Please provide your comments via return email no later than 10 working days so that I can take your comments into consideration when I decide on the application.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer the Transpower New Zealand Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project (CUWLP) Project Works and Workers' Village Project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information

CC: Virginia Loughnan, Consents Manager  
Environment Canterbury, Email:

s 9(2)(a)