

# Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation  
Minister for Māori Crown Relations  
Minister for Māori Development  
Minister for Whānau Ora  
Associate Minister of Housing



7 April 2026

By email: [substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe,

## Invitation to comment on the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the **Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience** project under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

**I support the application** subject to the Expert Panel:

- Having due regard to the Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition over Lake Pūkaki, including TRONT'S views (per the Deed of Recognition), the association of Ngāi Tahu with the lake, taonga species, mahinga kai importance, and nohoanga entitlements within the project area.
- Having due regard to the matters raised by Kā Rūnaka and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT), and their counsel.
- Ensuring there is ongoing consultation between the Applicant and Kā Rūnaka.

**I also encourage** the Expert Panel to:

- Consider whether the taonga species found at Lake Pūkaki are likely to be impacted by the application, and if so, what remedies or mitigation strategies are appropriate (if any); and
- Consider the Ngāi Tahu nohoanga entitlement in relation to potential effects on cultural values including any impacts on overlap of works and entitlement period.
- Give reasonable consideration to the comments provided by relevant Māori groups, including those relating to appropriate triggers for low lake levels, plan integrity and precedent, and cultural monitoring programmes.

Mauri ora,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tama Potaka'.

**Hon Tama Potaka**

Te Minita mō Te Arawhiti | Minister for Māori Crown Relations