

From: [Infrastructure Portfolio](#)
To: [Nicola Willis \(MIN\)](#); [Shane Jones \(MIN\)](#); [Simon Watts \(MIN\)](#); [Penny Simmonds \(MIN\)](#)
Cc: [FTAreferalls](#)
Subject: Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – FTAA-2503-1036
Date: Tuesday, 3 June 2025 9:55:11 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Comments Form for Invited Ministers.docx](#)

To:

Minister for Economic Growth

Minister for Regional Development

Minister of Energy

Minister for the Environment

Dear Ministers,

Hon Chris Bishop, the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister), has asked for me to write to you on his behalf.

The Minister has received an application from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process (application reference FTAA-2503-1036).

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

Invitation to comment on referral application

I write in accordance with section 17 of the Act to invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. I have provided summary details of the project below.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received by **return email** within **20 working days** of receipt of this email. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Any comments submitted will contribute to the Minister's decision on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you do not wish to provide comments, please let us know as soon as possible so we can proceed with processing the application without delay.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Process

The application documents are accessible through the Fast-track portal. Please note that application documents may contain commercially sensitivity information and should not be shared widely. If you haven't used the portal before, you can request access by emailing ftareferalls@mfe.govt.nz. Once you are registered and have accepted the terms and conditions, you will receive a link to view the documents. Existing users will be able to see application documents via the request when logging into the portal. Should you need for your agency to provide any supplementary information, a nominated person can be provided access to the portal, access can be requested by emailing ftareferalls@mfe.govt.nz.

To submit your comments on the application, you can either provide a letter or complete the attached template for written comments and return it by replying to this email, infrastructure.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this email or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz. Further information is available at <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/>.

Important Information

Please note that all comments received from Ministers invited to comment will be subject to the Official Information Act 1982. Comments received will be proactively released at the time the Minister for Infrastructure makes a referral decision, unless the Minister providing comments advises the Minister for Infrastructure's office they are to be withheld, at the time they are submitted.

If a Conflict of Interest is identified by the Minister providing comments at any stage of providing comments, please inform my office and the Cabinet Office immediately. The Cabinet Office will provide advice and, if appropriate, initiate a request to the Prime Minister to agree to a transfer of the project/portfolio invite to another Minister (a request to transfer a COI from one Minister to another can take 1-7 days).

Project summary

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant	Meridian Energy Limited
Project description	The project seeks resource consents for water takes from Lake

Pūkaki contingent storage to occur over three consecutive winters from winter 2026 at levels lower than the minimum permitted level of 518 minimum reduced level (mRL) (down to 513mRL), which is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The project also seeks resource consents to install permanent rock armouring on Pūkaki Dam at the southern end of the lake during. Rock armouring works can only be undertaken when lake levels are lower than permitted and will take 10-12 weeks to complete from commencement.

Allowing for lower levels will also provide additional water for electricity generation if required.

Yours sincerely
Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Infrastructure



Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform,
Minister for Sport & Recreation, Leader of the House, Associate Minister of Finance
Email: christopher.bishop@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

FTAA-2503-1036

Ross Wells
Board Chair
Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Ally

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires consultation with relevant Māori groups identified under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery)

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Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a point.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc info@aecltd.co.nz

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
Project summary details	<p>Lake Pūkaki is located on Tekapo-Twizel Road, approximately 10 kilometres north of Twizel, in the Mackenzie Basin.</p> <p>The project seeks resource consents to take water between 518 mRL (metres above mean sea level) and 513 mRL from Lake Pūkaki over three consecutive winters from 2026 without Security of Supply Alert or Official Conservation Campaign triggers. This is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant already holds resource consents to operate Lake Pūkaki between 518 mRL (normal consented minimum lake level) and 532.5 mRL (maximum consented storage level) and below 518 mRL to 513 mRL subject to Security of Supply Alert or Conservation Campaign triggers.</p> <p>The project also seeks resource consents to install permanent rock armouring on Pūkaki Dam at the southern end of the lake. Rock armouring works can only be undertaken when lake levels are lower than permitted and will take 10-12 weeks to complete from commencement.</p> <p>The proposed approvals required include resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and a potential wildlife permit under the Wildlife Act 1953.</p>

FTAA-2503-1036

Trevor McGlinchey
Acting Board Chair
Aukaha

Email: consents@aukaha.co.nz

Tēnā koe Trevor

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires consultation with relevant Māori groups identified under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery)

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Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc s 9(2)(a)

fasttrack.govt.nz | contact@fasttrack.govt.nz | 0800 FASTRK

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
Project summary details	<p>Lake Pūkaki is located on Tekapo-Twizel Road, approximately 10 kilometres north of Twizel, in the Mackenzie Basin.</p> <p>The project seeks resource consents to take water between 518 mRL (metres above mean sea level) and 513 mRL from Lake Pūkaki over three consecutive winters from 2026 without Security of Supply Alert or Official Conservation Campaign triggers. This is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant already holds resource consents to operate Lake Pūkaki between 518 mRL (normal consented minimum lake level) and 532.5 mRL (maximum consented storage level) and below 518 mRL to 513 mRL subject to Security of Supply Alert or Conservation Campaign triggers.</p> <p>The project also seeks resource consents to install permanent rock armouring on Pūkaki Dam at the southern end of the lake. Rock armouring works can only be undertaken when lake levels are lower than permitted and will take 10-12 weeks to complete from commencement.</p> <p>The proposed approvals required include resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and a potential wildlife permit under the Wildlife Act 1953.</p>

Stefanie Rixecker
Chief Executive Officer
Canterbury Regional Council
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Stefanie

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Canterbury Regional Council (CRC) to provide written comments on the referral application. Under section 17(3) of the Act and without limiting any general comments under subsection (1)(a), CRC **must** provide comments advising on the following matters:

1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please also confirm this in writing
2. In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections 124C(1)(c) or 165Z1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please also confirm this in writing.

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The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a point.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc: s 9(2)(a)
fasttrack@ecan.govt.nz

fasttrack.govt.nz | contact@fasttrack.govt.nz | 0800 FASTRK

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
Project summary details	<p>Lake Pūkaki is located on Tekapo-Twizel Road, approximately 10 kilometres north of Twizel, in the Mackenzie Basin.</p> <p>The project seeks resource consents to take water between 518 mRL (metres above mean sea level) and 513 mRL from Lake Pūkaki over three consecutive winters from 2026 without Security of Supply Alert or Official Conservation Campaign triggers. This is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant already holds resource consents to operate Lake Pūkaki between 518 mRL (normal consented minimum lake level) and 532.5 mRL (maximum consented storage level) and below 518 mRL to 513 mRL subject to Security of Supply Alert or Conservation Campaign triggers.</p> <p>The project also seeks resource consents to install permanent rock armouring on Pūkaki Dam at the southern end of the lake. Rock armouring works can only be undertaken when lake levels are lower than permitted and will take 10-12 weeks to complete from commencement.</p> <p>The proposed approvals required include resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and a potential wildlife permit under the Wildlife Act 1953.</p>

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Sarah Gillies
Chief Executive Officer
Electricity Authority (Te Mana Hiko)
PO Box 10041
Wellington 6143

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Sarah

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then be able to lodge their

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substantive application for the approvals they require. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

To assist you with the process, project summary details are in Appendix A.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a point.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc info@ea.govt.nz

Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
Project summary details	<p>Lake Pūkaki is located on Tekapo-Twizel Road, approximately 10 kilometres north of Twizel, in the Mackenzie Basin.</p> <p>The project seeks resource consents to take water between 518 mRL (metres above mean sea level) and 513 mRL from Lake Pūkaki over three consecutive winters from 2026 without Security of Supply Alert or Official Conservation Campaign triggers. This is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant already holds resource consents to operate Lake Pūkaki between 518 mRL (normal consented minimum lake level) and 532.5 mRL (maximum consented storage level) and below 518 mRL to 513 mRL subject to Security of Supply Alert or Conservation Campaign triggers.</p> <p>The project also seeks resource consents to install permanent rock armouring on Pūkaki Dam at the southern end of the lake. Rock armouring works can only be undertaken when lake levels are lower than permitted and will take 10-12 weeks to complete from commencement.</p> <p>The proposed approvals required include resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and a potential wildlife permit under the Wildlife Act 1953.</p>

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Gaye Searancke
Chief Executive Officer
Land Information New Zealand
PO Box 5501
Wellington 6145

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Gaye

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application including on the following matters:

1. Regarding Crown land on the project site with an operating easement in favour of the applicant, whether there are any matters which might adversely affect the applicant's ability to undertake the proposed works.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then be able to lodge their substantive application for the approvals they require. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

To assist you with the process, project summary details are in Appendix A.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Brett Parker – Senior Policy Advisor
 s 9(2)(a)


Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
Project summary details	<p>Lake Pūkaki is located on Tekapo-Twizel Road, approximately 10 kilometres north of Twizel, in the Mackenzie Basin.</p> <p>The project seeks resource consents to take water between 518 mRL (metres above mean sea level) and 513 mRL from Lake Pūkaki over three consecutive winters from 2026 without Security of Supply Alert or Official Conservation Campaign triggers. This is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant already holds resource consents to operate Lake Pūkaki between 518 mRL (normal consented minimum lake level) and 532.5 mRL (maximum consented storage level) and below 518 mRL to 513 mRL subject to Security of Supply Alert or Conservation Campaign triggers.</p> <p>The project also seeks resource consents to install permanent rock armouring on Pūkaki Dam at the southern end of the lake. Rock armouring works can only be undertaken when lake levels are lower than permitted and will take 10-12 weeks to complete from commencement.</p> <p>The proposed approvals required include resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and a potential wildlife permit under the Wildlife Act 1953.</p>

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Angela Oosthuizen
Chief Executive Officer
Mackenzie District Council
PO Box 52
FAIRLIE 7949

Email: 

Dear Angela

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Mackenzie District Council to provide written comments on the referral application. Under section 17(3) of the Act and without limiting any general comments under subsection (1)(a), Mackenzie District Council **must** provide comments advising on the following matters:

1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please also confirm this in writing
2. In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections 124C(1)(c) or 165Z1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please also confirm this in writing.

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If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, stylized loop at the top and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc: s 9(2)(a)

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Appendix A – Project summary details

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FTAA-2503-1036

Ally Crane
General Manager
Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Ally

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

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I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires consultation with relevant Māori groups identified under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

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If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery)

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Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc arowhenua.admin@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
Project summary details	<p>Lake Pūkaki is located on Tekapo-Twizel Road, approximately 10 kilometres north of Twizel, in the Mackenzie Basin.</p> <p>The project seeks resource consents to take water between 518 mRL (metres above mean sea level) and 513 mRL from Lake Pūkaki over three consecutive winters from 2026 without Security of Supply Alert or Official Conservation Campaign triggers. This is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant already holds resource consents to operate Lake Pūkaki between 518 mRL (normal consented minimum lake level) and 532.5 mRL (maximum consented storage level) and below 518 mRL to 513 mRL subject to Security of Supply Alert or Conservation Campaign triggers.</p> <p>The project also seeks resource consents to install permanent rock armouring on Pūkaki Dam at the southern end of the lake. Rock armouring works can only be undertaken when lake levels are lower than permitted and will take 10-12 weeks to complete from commencement.</p> <p>The proposed approvals required include resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and a potential wildlife permit under the Wildlife Act 1953.</p>

FTAA-2503-1036

Justin Tipa
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative
Te Rūnanga o Moeraki

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Justin

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires consultation with relevant Māori groups identified under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery)

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Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc moeraki.runanga@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
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FTAA-2503-1036

Amy Beran
Senior Environmental Advisor
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Amy

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

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Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

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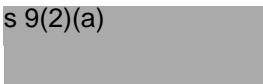
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Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc 
ttw@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
info@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

fasttrack.govt.nz | contact@fasttrack.govt.nz | 0800 FASTRK

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
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FTAA-2503-1036

Melissa Slatter
Te Rūnanga o Waihao

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Melissa

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

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Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

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Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc waihao.manager@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
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Penny Nelson
Director-General
Department of Conservation
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6140

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Penny

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite the Department of Conservation to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Wildlife Act 1953.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's

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consideration in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal stroke that tapers to a point.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Jenni Fitzgerald, FT Applications Manager
s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Fast-track@doc.govt.nz

fasttrack.govt.nz | contact@fasttrack.govt.nz | 0800 FASTRK

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Appendix A – Project summary details

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James Palmer
Secretary for the Environment
Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362
Wellington 6143

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear James

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite the Ministry for the Environment to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Resource Management Act 1991.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

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consideration in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

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Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Macaela Flanagan – Manager, System Oversight
s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
adminagencyftaa@mfe.govt.nz

fasttrack.govt.nz | contact@fasttrack.govt.nz | 0800 FASTRK

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
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James Kilty
Chief Executive Officer
Transpower New Zealand Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear James

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Meridian Energy Limited for referral of the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application including on the following matters:

1. Any impact the project may have on national security of supply and contingent hydro storage.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then be able to lodge their substantive application for the approvals they require. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

To assist you with the process, project summary details are in Appendix A.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

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Yours sincerely

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Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Joanne Mooar – Senior Corporate Counsel
 s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works
Applicant name	Meridian Energy Limited
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