

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



FTAA-2503-1035

Daniel Sadler
Fast-track Expert Panel Chair
substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Daniel

Thank you for the invitation to comment on Genesis Energy Limited's Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) substantive application, for Tekapo Power Station (FTAA-2503-1035). I am responding in my capacity as Minister Responsible for RMA Reform.

Infrastructure is important for growth and prosperity. Our view is our planning system has not been enabling of growth, hence the establishment of the FTAA. I have my attached my comments relating to the Tekapo Power Station in Appendix 1.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my broad support for projects which deliver positive outcomes for New Zealand, including the Tekapo Power Station. Please take this letter of support as a reflection of the Government's economic growth and infrastructure priorities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Appendix 1 – Comments on the Tekapo Power Scheme project – FTAA-2503-1035

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

The Tekapo Power Scheme is a large hydroelectric scheme with a generation capacity of 190MW and is part of the larger Waitaki Hydro Scheme. The Tekapo Power Station comprises of two hydro-electric power stations, referred to as “Tekapo A” (capacity 30 MW) and “Tekapo B” (capacity 160 MW).

The purpose of Genesis Energy’s Fast-track Approval Act 2024 (FTAA) application is to renew the consents for the Tekapo Power Scheme to maintain the renewable generation of electricity. Resource consents relating to the damming, taking, diverting, use and discharge of water expire in 2025.

The Tekapo Power Scheme FTAA application is consistent with the objective and policies of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 and the Government’s proposed update to the National Policy Statement.

The FTAA application will ensure the Tekapo Power Station can continue generating renewable electricity and it supports the Government’s target to double renewable electricity generation by 2050.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 & National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020

The Tekapo Power Scheme FTAA application requests the renewal of resource consents relating to the damming, taking, diverting, use and discharge of water.

The application has been assessed on the basis that the 'existing environment' refers to the current operation of the Tekapo Power scheme at the time the application was lodged.

This application is consistent with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020.

Genesis Energy is not proposing any changes to the current operational parameters of the hydro scheme, and therefore no additional changes to the existing environment are anticipated. The application does not include any changes to the hydrological operation that would alter existing fluctuation patterns affecting wetlands or domestic water supply bores.

Tekapo Power Scheme A and B make up two of the eight stations on the Waitaki Hydro Scheme. Clause 3.31 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 recognises the Waitaki Hydro Scheme as one of the five largest hydroelectricity schemes in New Zealand. The National Policy Statement directs regional councils to have regard to the importance of the Scheme’s

- contribution to NZ’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets,
- contribution to maintaining the security of New Zealand’s electricity supply, and
- generation capacity, storage and operational flexibility.

Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025

The Government's Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 (the Amendment Act) has recently passed into law.

The Amendment Act requires councils to issue natural resource permits for renewable energy projects with 35-year durations. Genesis Energy's request for their water and discharge permits to be issued for 35 years is consistent with the Amendment Act and will provide certainty of renewable electricity generation from the Tekapo Power Scheme.