



## FTAA-2607-1258: Application received for referral of the project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Stage 1 decisions

**Project Name: Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project.**

|                       |               |                 |              |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Date submitted</b> | 27 July 2026  | <b>Tracking</b> | 26-BRF-02071 |
| <b>Security level</b> | In-Confidence | <b>Priority</b> | Urgent       |

| To                                              | Action sought                           | Response by   |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Hon Chris Bishop<br>Minister for Infrastructure | Decisions on recommendations in Table A | 3 August 2026 |

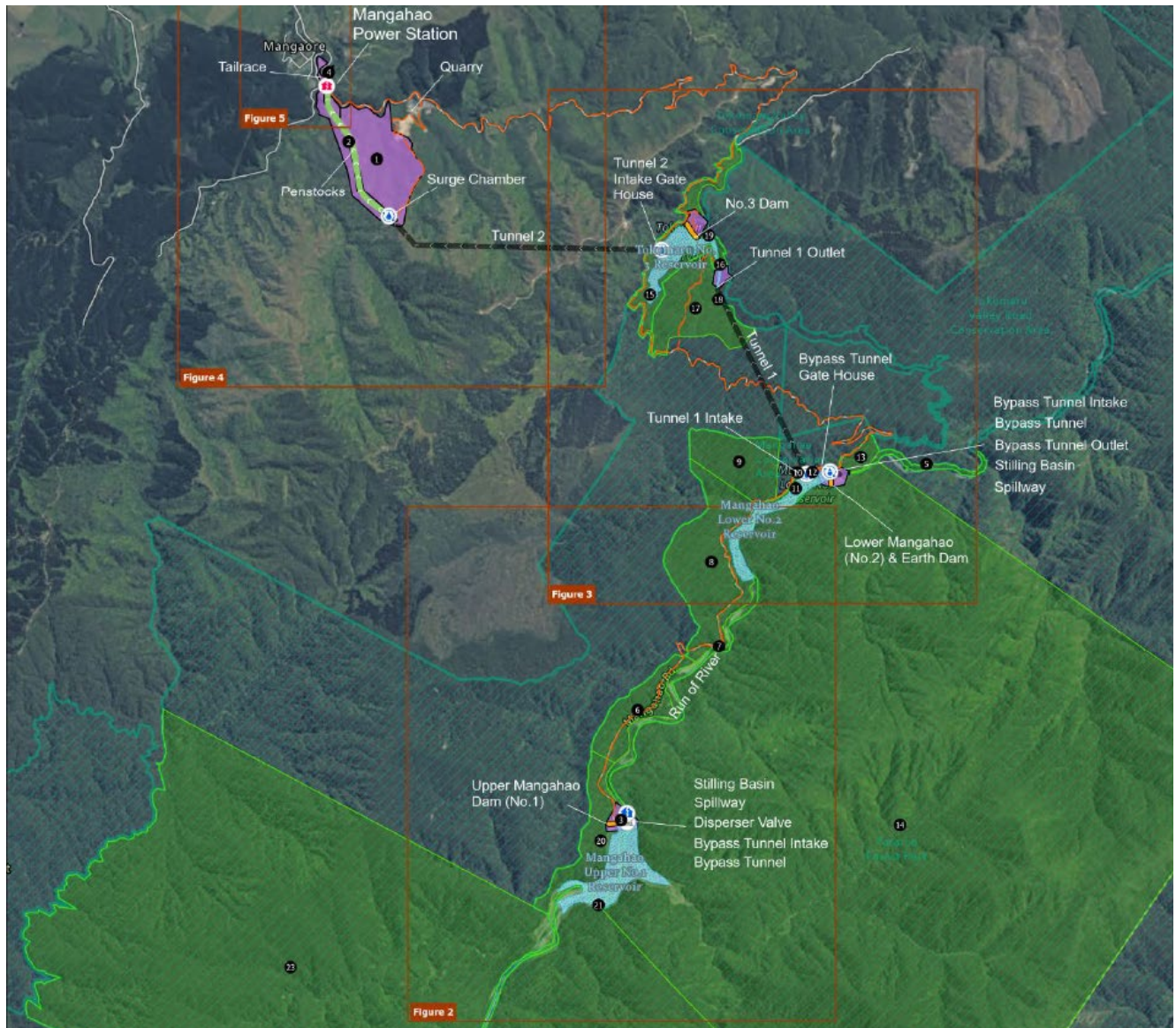
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|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Actions for Minister's Office staff</b> | <b>Return</b> the signed briefing to: <i>FTAreferrals@mfe.govt.nz</i><br><b>Send</b> email to Ministers to invite written comments                                                                  |
| <b>Number of appendices:</b> 3             | Appendices:<br>1. Statutory framework summary<br>2. Application documents for Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project<br>3. List of the Māori groups referred to in section 18(2) |

### Ministry contacts

| Name            | Position         | Telephone | 1 <sup>st</sup> contact |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Antonia Croft   | Principal Author |           |                         |
| Stephanie Frame | Manager          | s 9(2)(a) | ✓                       |
| Ilana Miller    | General Manager  | s 9(2)(a) |                         |



## Project location





## Key messages

1. This briefing seeks your initial decisions on an application from Manawa Energy Limited (the applicant) to refer the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process.
2. At this stage you can either decline an application for the reasons set out section 21, or provide the application to, and invite comments from, the parties identified in section 17. If you do not decline the application, you will receive a further briefing following receipt of comments, to inform your final decision on whether to refer the project.
3. The project is the reconsenting of the existing Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme to enable its continued operation and maintenance. The project is located in the northern part of the Tararua Ranges, approximately 28 kilometres south-west of Palmerston North and 15 kilometres north-east of Levin. It draws water from the Mangahao River and generates up to 39.9 megawatts of electricity, with an average annual output of 131 gigawatt-hours, sufficient to power approximately 20,000 homes. The project includes existing operation and maintenance activities occurring across multiple land parcels, including Crown land administered by the Department of Conservation.



4. The activities applied for include:
  - a. the damming, taking, diversion and use of water;
  - b. the discharge of water and sediment;
  - c. the disturbance of riverbeds;
  - d. the deposition of sediment;
  - e. the maintenance of structures within waterbodies; and
  - f. the erection and placement of structures within waterbodies (included on a precautionary basis).
5. The project will require the proposed approvals:
  - a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991
  - b. the applicant identifies that an approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 will be required and states that further ecological investigations will determine whether a standard or complex freshwater fisheries approval is necessary.
6. We note that this is the second referral application for the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme. The applicant previously applied for referral to the fast-track approvals process in July 2025 and the application was referred by you on 10 November 2025. The current referral application represents a re-lodgement of the project: Subsequent to the original referral, the applicant has identified that some existing maintenance activities and associated landholdings were not clearly identified within the scope of the earlier referral application, including works extending onto Crown land administered by the Department of Conservation. The applicant states that no changes are proposed to the operating regime or to the project previously accepted for referral, and that the current application is intended only to ensure these activities and landholdings are accurately captured within the project scope.
7. We have undertaken initial analysis of the referral application, and this is presented along with our considerations and recommendations in Table A.
8. We have decided the application is complete and complies with section 14 of the Act, as the application complies with section 13 requirements, may be capable of satisfying the criteria in section 22 and does not appear to involve an ineligible activity. The applicable fee and levy have been paid.
9. We recommend you progress consideration of the referral application to the next stage of analysis (Stage 2) and invite written comments from the parties prescribed in section 17(1) of the Act being:
  - a. Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council as the relevant local authorities
  - b. the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development
  - c. the Minister for Energy and the Minister of Climate Change, and the Minister of Conservation as the other relevant portfolio Ministers
  - d. Department of Conservation as the relevant administering agency
  - e. the parties in Appendix 3 as the other identified Māori groups.



10. We recommend that you invite written comments from the Electra Lines Company Limited, Transpower New Zealand Limited, the Minister for Economic Growth and the Minister for Regional Development as an additional person under section 17(5) of the Act.
11. As the project area includes public conservation land, we note you must obtain a report from the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with section 19(1) of the Act.

### Action sought

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12. Please indicate your decisions on the recommendations in Table A.

### Signature

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Stephanie Frame  
**Manager – Fast-track Operations**

**Table A: Stage 1 analysis**

|                                                                                                                                      | Project Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Applicant                           |                                   | Project Area                                                                                                                                                        |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Project details                                                                                                                      | Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Manawa Energy Limited               |                                   | The Scheme is located in the northern part of the Tararua Ranges, approximately 28 kilometres south-west of Palmerston North and 15 kilometres north-east of Levin. |                                                         |
| Project description                                                                                                                  | <p>The project is the reconsenting of the existing Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme (HEPS) to enable its continued operation and maintenance. It draws water from the Mangahao River and generates up to 39.9 megawatts of electricity, with an average annual output of 131 gigawatt-hours, sufficient to power approximately 20,000 homes. The project includes existing operation and maintenance activities occurring across multiple land parcels, including Crown land administered by the Department of Conservation.</p> <p>The activities applied for include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the damming, taking, diversion and use of water;</li><li>the discharge of water and sediment;</li><li>the disturbance of riverbeds;</li><li>the deposition of sediment;</li><li>the maintenance of structures within waterbodies; and</li><li>the erection and placement of structures within waterbodies (included on a precautionary basis).</li></ul> <p>The project will require the proposed approvals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991</li><li>the applicant identifies that an approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 will be required and states that further ecological investigations will determine whether a standard or complex freshwater fisheries approval is necessary.</li></ul> <p>The applicant explains that no changes to the existing operating regime are proposed. This is the second referral application for this project, and incorporates some corrections from an earlier referral application.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                     |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |
| Notification and/or consultation undertaken                                                                                          | As required by section 11, the applicant has:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                     |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                      | Notified in writing, the relevant local authorities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Notified in writing, the relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities                                                                                                            | Consulted, the relevant MACA groups | Consulted, ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou | Notified in writing, the relevant administering agencies                                                                                                            | Notified in writing, the holder of land to be exchanged |
|                                                                                                                                      | Horizons Regional Council<br>Horowhenua District Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ngāti Whakatere<br>Rangitāne o Manawatū<br>Muaūpoko<br>Ngāti Whakatere<br>Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua<br>Rangitāne Tamaki nui-ā-Rua<br>Rangitāne o Wairarapa<br>Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga | N/A                                 | N/A                               | Department of Conservation                                                                                                                                          | N/A                                                     |
| Section 22 assessment criteria                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                     |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |
| The project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits [section 22(1)(a)] | <p>The Minister <u>must</u> consider a relevant Government policy statement (GPS) [s22(1A)]</p> <p>The only current relevant GPS is the Government Policy Statement on Grocery Competition. The project does not include commercial activities will include a supermarket development or grocery related activities; therefore we consider the Government Policy Statement on Grocery Competition is not relevant to your decision.</p> <p>You <u>may</u> consider any of the following matters, or any other matters the Minister considers relevant:</p> <p>Will deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure [s22(2)(a)(ii)]</p> <p>The applicant states that the Mangahao HEPS is regionally and nationally significant infrastructure that generates approximately 131 GigaWatt hour (GWh) of renewable electricity annually, has a generation capacity of 39.9 MegaWatts (MW), supplies enough electricity to power approximately 20,000 homes, and contributes to energy security, security of electricity supply and New Zealand's decarbonisation objectives.</p> <p>A key benefit of the project is its firming capability. Firming refers to the ability of controllable and dispatchable generation to provide electricity when intermittent renewable generation sources, such as wind and solar, are unavailable or producing less electricity than expected. The application states that the scheme provides controllable hydro-electric generation that can respond to changes in demand, supports peak electricity supply, and complements intermittent renewable generation sources.</p> <p>The applicant states that reconsenting will enable the continued operation of the existing Mangahao HEPS, which is considered regionally and nationally significant renewable electricity infrastructure.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                     |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                              | <p><i>Will deliver significant economic benefits [s22(2)(a)(iv)]</i><br/>The applicant states that maintaining the scheme will provide economic benefits, including avoiding the estimated \$190.6 million capital cost of replacement generation infrastructure, avoiding approximately \$5.8 million per year in thermal fuel costs, reducing consenting costs estimated at \$2–4 million, maintaining approximately six full-time operational roles, and supporting local expenditure exceeding \$1 million annually.</p> <p><i>Will support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions [s22(2)(a)(vii)]</i><br/>The applicant states that the ongoing operation of the scheme contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable electricity generation and supports New Zealand's emissions reduction targets. It also states that replacement thermal generation could result in approximately 25,800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions per year.</p> <p><i>Will support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards [s22(2)(a)(viii)]</i><br/>The applicant states that the project contributes to the resilience of New Zealand's electricity system through the continued operation of existing renewable electricity generation infrastructure. The Mangahao HEPS is a lifeline utility under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and that the scheme supports continuity of electricity supply, reduces reliance on imported electricity from outside the region, and assists response and recovery efforts during and following emergency events.</p> <p><i>Will address significant environmental issues [s22(2)(a)(ix)]</i><br/>The applicant states that the Mangahao HEPS has significance as a generator of renewable electricity, supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p><i>Is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies [s22(2)(a)(x)]</i><br/>The applicant states that, based on a preliminary planning assessment, the re consenting of the Mangahao HEPS will be consistent with the relevant regional and local planning documents. The applicant identifies the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan within the Horizons One Plan as the relevant planning instruments and states that these recognise significant infrastructure and require environmental effects to be managed while enabling the continued operation of existing significant infrastructure. The applicant further states that no relevant local planning instruments, including spatial strategies, have been identified.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Referring the project to the fast-track approvals process [section 22(1)(b)] | <p><i>Would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes [s22(1)(b)(i)]</i><br/>The applicant stated that, compared with the conventional Resource Management Act 1991 process, the fast-track process allows for time savings of between three and four years and millions of dollars in administrative and professional services costs. The applicant cites its experience with the Kaimai Hydro-electric Power Scheme (Kaimai HEPS), stating that "Manawa was able to obtain its approvals through the fast-track process in 32 and a half weeks from lodgement with the EPA".</p> <p><i>Is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process [s22(1)(b)(ii)]</i><br/>The applicant stated that no changes are proposed to the overall operating regime for the Mangahao HEPS and no material change in environmental effects is expected. The applicant considers that, while the project is likely to be publicly notified under the Resource Management Act 1991 and require a substantive hearing, the public notification, hearing and appeal processes are costly, onerous and significantly lengthy for the continuation of an existing activity. The applicant states that the fast-track process reduces the timeframe to achieve a decision, offers more certainty of outcome, and has already been successfully used for the re consenting of the Tekapo Hydro-Electric Power Scheme and the Kaimai Hydro-Electric Power Scheme. The applicant notes that the Mangahao HEPS was previously referred to the fast-track process and accepted by the Minister, and that no material change to the operating regime or the project previously accepted to the fast-track is proposed, with this referral application being made only to ensure existing maintenance activities and all land holdings are accurately included. The applicant therefore states that referring the project will not affect the efficient operation of the fast-track process.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Minister invites comments                                                    | <p><i>You <b>must</b> copy the application to, and invite written comments from [s17(1)]:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>relevant local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horizons Regional Council</li> <li>Horowhenua District Council</li> </ul> </li> <li>the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development</li> <li>other relevant portfolio Ministers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Minister for Energy</li> <li>the Minister of Climate Change</li> <li>the Minister of Conservation</li> </ul> </li> <li>relevant administering agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Conservation</li> </ul> </li> <li>the Māori groups identified in Appendix 3</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><i>You <b>may</b> copy the application to, and invite written comments from, any other person [s17(5)]:</i></p> <p>We recommend you invite comments from the following additional persons, for the specified reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand Limited who administers the national grid.</li> <li>the Chief Executive of Electra Lines Company Limited as the local electricity distribution company that the Scheme connects to.</li> <li>Minister for Regional Development</li> <li>Minister for Economic Growth</li> </ol> | <p><i>The Minister <b>may</b> request further information about a referral application from the applicant, the relevant local authorities, or the relevant administering agencies to be provided within the time frame specified in the request.</i></p> <p>N/A</p> |

| Recommendations |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                      | Minister's decision |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a.              | <b>Note</b> that section 25 of the Act permits you to decline the referral application without inviting comments from the parties under section 17.                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                      | Noted               |
| b.              | <b>Note</b> that you have not yet provided the application to, nor sought any written comments on it from, the parties listed in section 17(1) but that you are required to do so if you do not decline the application under section 21 of the Act. |                                                                                                                                                      | Noted               |
| c.              | <b>Note</b> that section 17(5) of the Act permits you to forward an application to, and invite written comments from, any other person.                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                      | Noted               |
| d.              | <b>Note</b> that if comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame you are required to consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.                                          |                                                                                                                                                      | Noted               |
| e.              | <b>Note</b> that section 20 of the Act permits you to request further information from the applicant or relevant local authorities or relevant administering agencies at any time before you decide whether to accept or decline an application.     |                                                                                                                                                      | Noted               |
| f.              | <b>Agree</b> to progress the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project to our Stage 2 analysis (invite written comments and request section 18 Treaty report).                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                      | Yes / No            |
| g.              | <b>Agree</b> to provide the application to, and invite written comments from:                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                      |                     |
|                 | i.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council as the relevant local authorities under section 17(1)(a)                                   | Yes / No            |
|                 | ii.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development under section 17(1)(b) | Yes / No            |
|                 | iii.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | the Minister for Energy and the Minister of Climate Change, and the Minister of as the other relevant portfolio Ministers under section 17(1)(b)     | Yes / No            |
|                 | iv.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Department of Conservation as the relevant administering agencies under section 17(1)(c)                                                             | Yes / No            |
|                 | v.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | the parties in Appendix 3 as the identified Māori groups under section 17(1)(d)                                                                      | Yes / No            |
|                 | vi.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | any parties you are required to invite comments from under section 17(1)(d) and (e) who may be subsequently identified                               | Yes / No            |
| h.              | <b>Agree</b> to provide the application to and invite written comments from the following additional persons under section 17(5):                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                      |                     |
|                 | i.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | the Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand Limited                                                                                                | Yes / No            |
|                 | ii.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | the Executive of Electra Lines Company Limited                                                                                                       | Yes / No            |
|                 | iii.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Minister for Regional Development                                                                                                                    | Yes / No            |
|                 | iv.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Minister for Economic Growth                                                                                                                         | Yes / No            |
| i.              | <b>Note</b> that section 19(1) of the Act requires you to obtain and consider a report in relation to the use of public conservation land for the project from the Director-General of Conservation.                                                 |                                                                                                                                                      | Noted               |
| j.              | <b>Note</b> that you have agreed to delegate to the Secretary for the Environment your responsibility to send all correspondence, other than to Ministers.                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                      | Noted               |
| k.              | <b>Agree</b> to send the email to invite written comments from Ministers.                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                      | Yes / No            |

Signed:

Hon Chris Bishop  
Minister for Infrastructure

Date:

## Appendix 1: Statutory framework summary

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1. You are the sole decision maker for referral applications. If you accept a referral application, then the whole or part of the project will be referred to the fast-track approvals process.
2. If a Treaty settlement, the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011, the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019, a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or a joint management agreement provides for consideration of any document or procedural requirements, you must, where relevant:
  - a. give the document the same or equivalent effect through this process as it would have under any specified Act; and
  - b. comply with any applicable procedural requirements.
3. You must decline a referral application if:
  - a. you are satisfied the project does not meet the referral criteria in s22
  - b. you are satisfied the project involves an ineligible activity (s5)
  - c. you consider you do not have adequate information to inform your decision.
4. You may decline an application for any other reason, including those set out in s21(5) and even if the application meets the s22 referral criteria.
5. You can decline an application before or after inviting comments under s17(1). However, if comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame, you must consider them, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.
6. If you do not decline a referral application at this initial stage you must copy the application to, and invite written comments from:
  - a. the relevant local authorities
  - b. the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development
  - c. any other relevant portfolio Ministers
  - d. the relevant administering agencies
  - e. the Māori groups identified by the responsible agency
  - f. the owners of Māori land in the project area (if applicable)
  - g. you may provide the application to and invite comments from any other person.
7. You can request further information from an applicant, any relevant local authority or any relevant administering agency at any time before you decide to decline or accept a referral application (see section 20 of the Act).
8. However, if further information has been sought and provided within the required time frame you must consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.

## **Appendix 2: Application documents for the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project**

### Appendix 3: List of the Māori groups referred to in section 18(2)

| Name of group                                                           | Type of group (section of Act)                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust (PSGE)                            | Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016                                                       |
| Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust (PSGE)                                        | Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017                           |
| Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust (PSGE) | iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022 |
| Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc                                           | iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))                                                                                      |
| Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated                                       | iwi authority (s18(2)(a))                                                                                                                   |
| Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua                                     | iwi authority (s18(2)(a))                                                                                                                   |
| Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc                                                 | iwi authority (s18(2)(a))                                                                                                                   |
| Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust                                 | iwi authority (s18(2)(a))                                                                                                                   |
| Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua                                            | iwi authority (s18(2)(a))                                                                                                                   |