
MINUTE 5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Appointment of technical advisors
Tekapo Power Scheme [FTAA- 2503-1035]

19 September 2025

[1] This minute records that the Expert Panel has appointed technical advisors to assist the Panel with a review of appropriateness and efficacy of the proposed Indigenous Biodiversity Enhancement Project proffered by the Applicant, and to undertake a review of the proposed conditions of consent. It also records that the Panel no longer proposes to hold an Issues Conference.

Review of IBEP programme

[2] The Application relies heavily on the proposed IBEP as a means to compensate for the residual adverse environmental effects of the Tekapo Power Scheme.

[3] Given the central importance of the IBEP, the Panel has engaged Christina Robb of Happen Consulting Limited to review the proposed IBEP, including the draft Kahu Ora Strategic Plan and proposed conditions of consent, to provide advice in relation to the appropriateness of the IBEP and whether the Panel can rely on the programme to deliver ecological benefits asserted by the Applicant as compensation for the effects of the Scheme.

[4] Ms Robb intends to provide her technical advice to the Panel on or before Thursday, 25 September 2025.

Review of conditions

[5] The Panel has also identified that it would benefit from receiving technical advice in the form of a review of the appropriateness and drafting of the proposed conditions of consent including those proffered by the Applicant.

[6] Rob Lieffering, technical director at SLR consulting, has been engaged by the Panel to undertake that review and provide any additional condition drafting support that may be required by the Panel.

[7] The Panel, through the EPA, has today requested from the Applicant a copy of the latest version of the proposed conditions of consent, updated to reflect any conversations between the Applicant and Canterbury Regional Council, so that Dr Lieffering can commence his review.

Other matters

[8] In Minute 4, the Panel recorded its intent to hold an “Issues Conference” to identify and refine certain issues. However, the date indicated for the conference was not suitable for the Applicant’s team, and it was not possible to identify an alternative date in the following two-week period where the Applicant, all relevant participants and the Panel were available.

[9] In any event, the Panel has subsequently received:

- (a) Legal advice from Vanessa Hamm; and
- (b) The Applicant’s comprehensive response to comments.

[10] The Panel has been assisted by the above, which have clarified a number of matters. The Panel has also now determined that it would be assisted by further technical advice from Ms Robb and Dr Lieffering. On this basis, the Panel has determined that the Issues Conference is no longer required.

[11] Once the technical advice has been received from Ms Robb and Dr Lieffering, the Panel will consider whether it would be appropriate to seek the views of the Applicant and participants.



Daniel Sadler
Expert Panel Chair