
Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – FTAA-2605-1237

From Infrastructure Portfolio <Infrastructure.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>

Date Tue 23/06/2026 8:08 AM

To Nicola Grigg (MIN) <N.Grigg@ministers.govt.nz>; Shane Jones (MIN) <S.Jones@ministers.govt.nz>; Nicola Willis (MIN) <N.Willis@ministers.govt.nz>; Tama Potaka (MIN) <T.Potaka@ministers.govt.nz>; Todd McClay (MIN) <T.McClay@ministers.govt.nz>; Paul Goldsmith (MIN) <P.Goldsmith@ministers.govt.nz>; Simon Watts (MIN) <S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson (MIN) <M.Patterson@ministers.govt.nz>; Mike Butterick (MIN) <M.Butterick@ministers.govt.nz>

Cc FTAreferalls <FTAreferalls@mfe.govt.nz>

 1 attachment (56 KB)

Comments Form for Invited Ministers.docx;

To:

- Minister for Economic Growth
- Minister for Regional Development
- Minister for the Environment
- Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
- Minister for Māori Development
- Minister of Conservation
- Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Minister of Climate Change
- Minister of Agriculture
- Associate Minister of Agriculture
- Associate Minister for Regional Development

NOTE - This project lodged an application after 31 March 2026, therefore a 15-day comment period applies.

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 Wi Pere Trust for referral of the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process (application reference FTAA-2605-1237).

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 **15 working days** of receipt of this email, being **15 July 2026**. 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 ftareferrals@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 ftareferrals@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	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project
Applicant	Wi Pere Trust
Location	Tangihanga, Gisborne
Project description	The project involves the construction of a dam to form a new large-capacity reservoir, with a footprint that would occupy up to 300 hectares, on the Pouarua Stream. The preferred dam configuration consists of a zoned earth embankment structure with height ranging from 34 to 39 meters and crest length between 190 to 230 meters. The projected normal top water level ranges from 60 to 65 meters above sea level, creating a reservoir storage capacity between 25.1 and 38.6 million cubic meters respectively. The reservoir would store water collected from local catchment runoff and from pumping water currently available for allocation from the Waipaoa River during high river flow periods. Stored water would then be released when demand is high or during dry-year water

restrictions to a downstream water reticulation system for a range of potential uses.

Additional main elements of the project include: associated hydraulic structures, a control room and equipment building, a pump station and associated building, mechanical and electrical equipment, a sedimentation and storage holding pond (if required), a rising main up to 4.5 kilometres long, power supplies from existing network, a new permanent access road, and a water distribution system.

Kind regards,



Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Attorney-General | Minister of Housing | Minister for Infrastructure | Minister Responsible for
RMA Reform | Minister of Transport | Associate Minister of Finance | MP for Hutt South

Office: 04 817 6802 | EW 6.3

Email: c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz Website: [<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/>]www.beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Brett Gliddon
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Brett,

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Wi Pere Trust (the applicant) for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A of this letter.

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. You have been identified as an “any other person” for the purposes of this section, as the project may involve transport network impacts from construction traffic movement on State Highway 2. Accordingly, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

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

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in [Section 22](#) of the Act will guide the Minister’s decision-making on whether to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process.

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete, an expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Whitney Nelson.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is positioned above a faint, light blue rectangular stamp.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc:
Waka Kotahi - EnvironmentalPlanning@nzta.govt.nz
Nicola Foran - s 9(2)(a)
Lauren Barnett - s 9(2)(a)
Kate Bonifacio - s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
Project summary details	The project is to construct and operate a water storage scheme located at and adjacent to Tangihanga Station, Tangihanga, in the Gisborne region. The project involves the construction of a dam to form a new large-capacity reservoir, with a footprint that would occupy up to 300 hectares, on the Pouarua Stream. The preferred dam configuration consists of a zoned earth embankment structure with height ranging from 34 to 39 meters and crest length between 190 to 230 meters. The projected normal top water level ranges from 60 to 65 meters above sea level, creating a reservoir storage capacity between 25.1 and 38.6 million cubic meters respectively. The reservoir would store water collected from local catchment runoff and from pumping water currently available for allocation from the Waipaoa River during high river flow periods. Stored water would then be released when demand is high or during dry-year water restrictions to a downstream water reticulation system for a range of potential uses. Additional elements of the project include: associated hydraulic structures, a control room and equipment building, a pump station and associated building, mechanical and electrical equipment, a sedimentation and storage holding pond (if required), a rising main up to 4.5 kilometres long, power supplies from existing network, a new permanent access road, and a water distribution system. The project will require the following proposed approvals: - Resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - Approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - Archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 - Approvals or dispensations under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Doug Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Trust Tairāwhiti

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Doug

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Wi Pere Trust (the applicant) for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A of this letter.

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. You have been identified as an “any other person” for the purposes of this section, as the organisation responsible for regional economic and community development, given the applicant’s assertion the project will support both. Accordingly, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

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

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in [Section 22](#) of the Act will guide the Minister’s decision-making on whether to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete, an expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Frame', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
Project summary details	The project is to construct and operate a water storage scheme located at and adjacent to Tangihanga Station, Tangihanga, in the Gisborne region. The project involves the construction of a dam to form a new large-capacity reservoir, with a footprint that would occupy up to 300 hectares, on the Pouarua Stream. The preferred dam configuration consists of a zoned earth embankment structure with height ranging from 34 to 39 meters and crest length between 190 to 230 meters. The projected normal top water level ranges from 60 to 65 meters above sea level, creating a reservoir storage capacity between 25.1 and 38.6 million cubic meters respectively. The reservoir would store water collected from local catchment runoff and from pumping water currently available for allocation from the Waipaoa River during high river flow periods. Stored water would then be released when demand is high or during dry-year water restrictions to a downstream water reticulation system for a range of potential uses. Additional elements of the project include: associated hydraulic structures, a control room and equipment building, a pump station and associated building, mechanical and electrical equipment, a sedimentation and storage holding pond (if required), a rising main up to 4.5 kilometres long, power supplies from existing network, a new permanent access road, and a water distribution system. The project will require the following proposed approvals: - Resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - Approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - Archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 - Approvals or dispensations under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Penny Nelson
Director-General of Conservation
Department of Conservation

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Penny

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM**.

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Wi Pere Trust (the applicant) for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). 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. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

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

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of the specified time frame.

Under section 17(3A) of the Act, any comments made by an administering agency must be **relevant** to the application and the decision on the application that the Minister is required to make under section 21.

The requirement for any other comments to be **relevant** is new, made through the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025. This change was made to ensure comments from organisations that recover costs from applicants are focused on matters relevant to the Minister's **referral**

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decision and do not stray into peripheral matters that are not material to that decision, or are overly technical or detailed where this level of input is not justified as being relevant to the decision. This is particularly important to help manage cost escalations which may otherwise be borne by applicants and/or taxpayers, without adding value to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the application.

Note that consideration of this referral application under these criteria is more limited than the detail required to be considered during a substantive application stage. Comments should therefore be limited to matters relevant to the referral criteria. Please refrain from providing overly detailed comments, which are not relevant to the referral decision.

You may have a later opportunity to provide further detail in comments on a substantive application (for example, site specific constraints or conditions), if the project is referred to an independent expert panel.

To this end, please ensure any comments you choose to provide are specific to this particular referral application, and linked to the Minister's decision-making criteria as set out in sections 21 and 22 of the Act. In this regard, we are particularly interested in comments you might have on the following matters:

1. *Whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act).*
2. *Whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21(5) of Act).*

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be disclosed to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete and within scope, an independent expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Whitney Nelson.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is shown within a rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Cc:

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

fast-track@doc.govt.nz

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
Project summary details	The project is to construct and operate a water storage scheme located at and adjacent to Tangihanga Station, Tangihanga, in the Gisborne region. The project involves the construction of a dam to form a new large-capacity reservoir, with a footprint that would occupy up to 300 hectares, on the Pouarua Stream. The preferred dam configuration consists of a zoned earth embankment structure with height ranging from 34 to 39 meters and crest length between 190 to 230 meters. The projected normal top water level ranges from 60 to 65 meters above sea level, creating a reservoir storage capacity between 25.1 and 38.6 million cubic meters respectively. The reservoir would store water collected from local catchment runoff and from pumping water currently available for allocation from the Waipaoa River during high river flow periods. Stored water would then be released when demand is high or during dry-year water restrictions to a downstream water reticulation system for a range of potential uses. Additional elements of the project include: associated hydraulic structures, a control room and equipment building, a pump station and associated building, mechanical and electrical equipment, a sedimentation and storage holding pond (if required), a rising main up to 4.5 kilometres long, power supplies from existing network, a new permanent access road, and a water distribution system. The project will require the following proposed approvals: - Resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - Approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - Archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 - Approvals or dispensations under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Nedine Thatcher Swann
Chief Executive
Gisborne District Council

email: service@gdc.govt.nz

Dear Nedine

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM**.

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Wi Pere Trust (the applicant) for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A of this letter.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

Under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Gisborne District Council to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

Written comments must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Under section 17(3) of the Act, Gisborne 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 provide written confirmation.*
- 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 provide written confirmation.

In addition, under section 17(3)(b), Gisborne District Council **may** also provide other comments, but only if those comments are relevant to the application and the decision on the application that the Minister is required to make under section 21.

The requirement for any other comments to be **relevant** is new, made through the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025. This change was made to ensure comments from organisations that recover costs from applicants are focused on matters relevant to the Minister's **referral** decision and do not stray into peripheral matters that are not material to that decision, or are overly technical or detailed where this level of input is not justified as being relevant to the decision. This is particularly important to help manage cost escalations which may otherwise be borne by applicants and/or ratepayers, without adding value to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the application.

Note that consideration of this referral application under these criteria is more limited than the detail required to be considered during a substantive application stage. Comments should therefore be limited to matters relevant to the referral criteria. Please refrain from providing overly detailed comments, which are not relevant to the referral decision.

You may have a later opportunity to provide further detail in comments on a substantive application (for example, site specific constraints or conditions), if the project is referred to an independent expert panel.

To this end, please ensure any comments you choose to provide are specific to this particular referral application, and linked to the Minister's decision-making criteria as set out in sections 21 and 22 of the Act. In this regard, we are particularly interested in comments you might have on the following matters:

3. *Whether you consider the project is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies (section 22(2)(a)(x)).*
4. *Whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act).*
5. *Whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21(5) of Act).*

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be disclosed to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete and within scope, an independent expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Whitney Nelson. For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
Project summary details	The project is to construct and operate a water storage scheme located at and adjacent to Tangihanga Station, Tangihanga, in the Gisborne region. The project involves the construction of a dam to form a new large-capacity reservoir, with a footprint that would occupy up to 300 hectares, on the Pouarua Stream. The preferred dam configuration consists of a zoned earth embankment structure with height ranging from 34 to 39 meters and crest length between 190 to 230 meters. The projected normal top water level ranges from 60 to 65 meters above sea level, creating a reservoir storage capacity between 25.1 and 38.6 million cubic meters respectively. The reservoir would store water collected from local catchment runoff and from pumping water currently available for allocation from the Waipaoa River during high river flow periods. Stored water would then be released when demand is high or during dry-year water restrictions to a downstream water reticulation system for a range of potential uses. Additional elements of the project include: associated hydraulic structures, a control room and equipment building, a pump station and associated building, mechanical and electrical equipment, a sedimentation and storage holding pond (if required), a rising main up to 4.5 kilometres long, power supplies from existing network, a new permanent access road, and a water distribution system. The project will require the following proposed approvals: - Resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - Approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - Archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 - Approvals or dispensations under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Peter Richardson
Director
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Peter,

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM**.

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Wi Pere Trust (the applicant) for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). 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. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to invite written comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as the administering agency for the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of the specified time frame.

Under section 17(3A) of the Act, any comments made by an administering agency must be **relevant** to the application and the decision on the application that the Minister is required to make under section 21.

The requirement for any other comments to be **relevant** is new, made through the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025. This change was made to ensure comments from organisations that recover costs from applicants are focused on matters relevant to the Minister's **referral**

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decision and do not stray into peripheral matters that are not material to that decision, or are overly technical or detailed where this level of input is not justified as being relevant to the decision. This is particularly important to help manage cost escalations which may otherwise be borne by applicants and/or taxpayers, without adding value to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the application.

Note that consideration of this referral application under these criteria is more limited than the detail required to be considered during a substantive application stage. Comments should therefore be limited to matters relevant to the referral criteria. Please refrain from providing overly detailed comments, which are not relevant to the referral decision.

You may have a later opportunity to provide further detail in comments on a substantive application (for example, site specific constraints or conditions), if the project is referred to an independent expert panel.

To this end, please ensure any comments you choose to provide are specific to this particular referral application, and linked to the Minister's decision-making criteria as set out in sections 21 and 22 of the Act. In this regard, we are particularly interested in comments you might have on the following matters:

1. *Whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act).*
2. *Whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21(5) of Act).*

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be disclosed to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete and within scope, an independent expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Whitney Nelson.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Cc:

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

admin@mangatu.co.nz

Tēnā koe,

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM**.

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Nāku noa, nā

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Rawiri Brown
Ngā Uri o Tamanui Trust

email: ngauriotamanuitrust@gmail.com

Tēnā koe Rawiri,

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Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc:

s 9(2)(a)

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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Teina Moetara
Chief Executive
Rongowhakaata Settlement Trust

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Teina,

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc:
trust@rongowhakaata.iwi.nz

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

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trust@rongowhakaata.iwi.nz

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Stephanie Frame
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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Beth Tupara-Katene
Tāmanuhiri Tūtū Poroporo Trust

email: trust@tamanuhiri.iwi.nz

Tēnā koe Beth,

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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Pehimana Brown
Te Aitanga ā Māhaki Trust

email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Pehimana,

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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) Regulations 2025. For general information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fast-

track webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#). The process for applying for a contribution fee payment as a Māori consultation group is outlined here: [Applying for a contribution fee payment](#).

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Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Whitney Nelson.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Frame', is shown within a light blue rectangular border.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc:

mahakitrustoffice@gmail.com

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
Project summary details	The project is to construct and operate a water storage scheme located at and adjacent to Tangihanga Station, Tangihanga, in the Gisborne region. The project involves the construction of a dam to form a new large-capacity reservoir, with a footprint that would occupy up to 300 hectares, on the Pouarua Stream. The preferred dam configuration consists of a zoned earth embankment structure with height ranging from 34 to 39 meters and crest length between 190 to 230 meters. The projected normal top water level ranges from 60 to 65 meters above sea level, creating a reservoir storage capacity between 25.1 and 38.6 million cubic meters respectively. The reservoir would store water collected from local catchment runoff and from pumping water currently available for allocation from the Waipaoa River during high river flow periods. Stored water would then be released when demand is high or during dry-year water restrictions to a downstream water reticulation system for a range of potential uses. Additional elements of the project include: associated hydraulic structures, a control room and equipment building, a pump station and associated building, mechanical and electrical equipment, a sedimentation and storage holding pond (if required), a rising main up to 4.5 kilometres long, power supplies from existing network, a new permanent access road, and a water distribution system. The project will require the following proposed approvals: - Resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - Approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - Archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 - Approvals or dispensations under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Robert Akuhata
Te Rūnanganui o Ngā Ariki Kaiputahi Trust

email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Robert,

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM**.

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Wi Pere Trust (the applicant) for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). 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. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

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, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

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Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Frame', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc:

s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

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Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Dr Charlotte Severne
Māori Trustee
Te Tumu Paeroa

Email: contact@tetumu.paeroa.co.nz

Tēnā koe Dr Charlotte,

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM.**

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Nāku noa, nā

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

David Hawea
Chair
Te Whānau a Kai

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe David,

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **15/07/2026, 11.59PM.**

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

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23/06/2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Alan Parekura Torohina Haronga
Chairman
Wi Pere Trust

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Alan,

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Nāku noa, nā

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc:

s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
Project summary details	The project is to construct and operate a water storage scheme located at and adjacent to Tangihanga Station, Tangihanga, in the Gisborne region. The project involves the construction of a dam to form a new large-capacity reservoir, with a footprint that would occupy up to 300 hectares, on the Pouarua Stream. The preferred dam configuration consists of a zoned earth embankment structure with height ranging from 34 to 39 meters and crest length between 190 to 230 meters. The projected normal top water level ranges from 60 to 65 meters above sea level, creating a reservoir storage capacity between 25.1 and 38.6 million cubic meters respectively. The reservoir would store water collected from local catchment runoff and from pumping water currently available for allocation from the Waipaoa River during high river flow periods. Stored water would then be released when demand is high or during dry-year water restrictions to a downstream water reticulation system for a range of potential uses. Additional elements of the project include: associated hydraulic structures, a control room and equipment building, a pump station and associated building, mechanical and electrical equipment, a sedimentation and storage holding pond (if required), a rising main up to 4.5 kilometres long, power supplies from existing network, a new permanent access road, and a water distribution system. The project will require the following proposed approvals: - Resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - Approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - Archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 - Approvals or dispensations under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

9 July 2026

FTAA-2605-1237

Anita Reedy-Holthausen
Director Engagement & Māori Partnerships
Local Leadership Body

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Anita,

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **Friday 31 July 2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Wi Pere Trust (the applicant) for the Pouarua Water Storage Scheme project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A.

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For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc: service@gdc.govt.nz

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2605-1237
Project name	Pouarua Water Storage Scheme
Applicant name	Wi Pere Trust
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