

Technical Advice – Terrestrial Ecology and Wetlands by Dr Gary Bramley

Date	28 August 2025
To	Ellie Watson, Environmental Manager – South Island Renewables, Genesis Energy
From	Dr Gary Bramley, Ecological Solutions Limited
Project advice provided for	Tekapo Power Scheme – Applications for Replacement Resource Consents
Documents referred to	Comments by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated. 25 August 2025. Canterbury Regional Council – s53 Planning Advice comments. 25 August 2025. Statement of evidence of Michael Harding on behalf of Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Incorporated. 18 August 2025. Ecological Solutions Limited. 2023. Tekapo Power Scheme Reconsenting, Assessment of Effects – Vegetation. Unpublished report prepared by Ecological Solutions for Genesis Energy Limited, May 2023. 58p + appendices, submitted as “Appendix R Terrestrial Vegetation TekapoPS Reconsenting” with the Genesis Fast-track Approvals Act Tekapo applications. Statement of evidence of Katherine (Kate) McArthur on behalf of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Incorporated. 22 August 2025. The Management Plans prepared for Genesis Energy Limited and submitted as “Appendix E Consent Condition Plans” with the Genesis Fast-track Approvals Act Tekapo applications.
Qualifications	I hold a PhD in Biology from Waikato University (1999), a Master of Science (with First Class Honours) in Ecology from Massey University (1995) and a BSc in Zoology, also from Massey University (1992). I am a qualified Hearings Commissioner. I have worked as an ecological consultant since 2000. Since 2021 I have been the Terrestrial Ecology Team Leader, and an owner and Director, of Ecological Solutions Limited, a multi-disciplinary ecological consulting firm with offices in Kāeo, Auckland, Tauranga and Nelson. The majority of my work has involved botanical and wildlife surveys, assessments of ecological value and significance as well as preparation of ecological impact assessments for wetland, shruland, forest, coastal and alpine sites and rehabilitation of previously disturbed sites including mines. I have also prepared offset and compensation proposals for some of the projects I have assisted with. I have worked on many infrastructure projects including mining, quarrying, electricity generation (hydroelectric, geothermal, wind and solar), roading and a proposed monorail. I have also worked on land development, irrigation and plan change projects. I have worked throughout New Zealand on these projects, including in the Upper Waitaki catchment and Mackenzie Basin. I am a member of the New Zealand Ecological Society, the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), Birds NZ (formerly the Ornithological Society of New Zealand) and the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

	I undertook the terrestrial ecological assessments for Genesis Energy Limited in relation to vegetation and wetlands.
Code of Conduct	As an expert witness I have read, and I am familiar with, the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2023. This memorandum has been prepared in compliance with that Code. In particular, unless I state otherwise, this response is within my area of expertise and I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions I express.
Signature	

I have reviewed the comments and evidence prepared by Forest and Bird / CRC and my assessment (Ecological Solutions Limited 2023) still stands.

Ms McArthur refers to four flow options in para 95 of her evidence. I have reviewed these options and in my opinion the catchment-wide IBEP compensation package proffered will result in better ecological outcomes for vegetation and wetlands in the upper Tākapō River than any of the flow options suggested.