

10 December 2025

Appendix D: wildlife approval report

Section 51(2)(c) wildlife approval report for –
FTAA-2505-1069 Waitaha Hydro Project

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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report provides commentary to support the Panel's assessment of the application by Westpower for wildlife approval.
- 1.2 In accordance with clause 3 of Schedule 7, this report must address the following matters:
- The purpose of the Wildlife Act 1953 and the effects of the Project on the protected wildlife that is to be covered by the approval.
 - Information and requirements relating to the protected wildlife that is to be covered by the approval (including in the New Zealand Threat Classification System or any relevant international conservation agreement).
 - Any conditions that should be imposed to manage the effects of the activity on protected wildlife.
 - Any conditions that should be imposed to recognise or protect a relevant Treaty settlement and any obligations arising under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 or the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019.

2. Overview of DOC's report

- 2.1 This report is divided into three key components of the application – lizard salvage, bat and avifauna salvage, and incidental harm or killing of wildlife.
- 2.2 Overall, DOC's assessment concludes that, subject to recommended conditions, the proposed activities are broadly consistent with the purpose of the Wildlife Act. The relevant species management plans include appropriate methodologies for salvage and relocation, identify suitable release sites, and propose appropriate habitat enhancement measures.
- 2.3 A summary of DOC's key recommendations is set out below.

2.4 Lizards

- 2.4.1 DOC notes that the Lizard Management Plan (LMP) incorporates best practice principles, including salvage and relocation protocols. Surveys have detected no lizards to date, but a precautionary approach identifies species that may occur at very low densities.
- 2.4.2 DOC considers the proposed methods generally appropriate but recommends additional details around additional activities that may be triggered by the discovery and capture of lizards during salvage. This includes more information on how many lizards / which species of lizards will trigger continued salvage effort and/or predator control at the release site(s) if found.

2.5 West Coast green gecko

- 2.5.1 Given the West Coast green gecko's Threatened status, if the Panel intends to grant approval for this species, DOC strongly recommends that a detailed contingency plan is prepared as an Appendix to the LMP prior to works commencing that can be implemented if one (or more)

individuals are encountered. In the alternative, DOC considers a “stop works” condition will be required such that plans can be developed.

2.6 Avifauna

- 2.6.1 DOC notes that in general avifauna has been thoroughly assessed, with comprehensive surveys and appropriate mitigation measures proposed. Given the small construction footprint and the mobility of birds outside the breeding season, DOC considers the risk of significant adverse effects to be low.
- 2.6.2 DOC notes that the Avifauna Management Plan includes provisions for who protection but raises concerns about proposed nesting deterrent techniques, which DOC does not consider realistic or practicable. DOC considers clarification of these methods and evidence of effectiveness is necessary.
- 2.6.3 DOC does not support construction continuing during a review following who mortality or injury and recommends that works should pause until mitigation measures are implemented.

2.7 Bats

- 2.7.1 DOC notes that the Bat Management Plan generally aligns with the Bat Protocols but has concerns about proposed parts of the management plan allowing deviations from the Protocols.
- 2.7.2 DOC does not support flexibility that undermines compliance and recommends that any variation be approved by the DOC Operations Manager through a typical wildlife approval variation process.
- 2.7.3 Conditions have been recommended to require adherence to the Bat Protocol, including definitions of low-risk trees, roost assessment methods, and restrictions on tree felling. DOC supports lighting mitigation and recommends specifying bulbs of 2700K or less to reduce impacts on bats.

2.8 Incidental killing

- 2.8.1 DOC is not opposed to approval being given for incidental killing of protected wildlife, however, notes that the proposed wording of clause 1(e) in the wildlife approval is problematic, as the phrase “all reasonable effort” creates a loophole that could weaken compliance obligations. DOC recommends that this wording be removed and that the Panel seek clarification from the applicant on its intent so conditions can be appropriately set.

2.9 Authorised personnel

- 2.9.1 DOC notes that the draft condition set does not identify authorised personnel. In the absence of certainty regarding the herpetologist’s credentials, DOC has recommended in the condition set that personnel be formally authorised in writing by DOC once confirmed.

2.10 Nest Protocols

- 2.10.1 DOC notes that the AMP includes measures to protect nests but only mentions certain species. DOC notes that it is an offence to disturb or destroy the nest of any absolutely protected species under the Wildlife Act. DOC suggests that the Panel take this activity into consideration.

3. Sources

- 3.1 This report draws on information from the substantive application. Application documents specifically referenced in this report include:

- Substantive application document and AEE
- Appendix 21 terrestrial fauna report
- Appendix 22 whio report
- Appendix 24 lizard report
- Appendix 36 avifauna management plan (17 November 2025)
- Appendix 37 bat management plan
- Appendix 38 lizard management plan (17 November 2025)
- Appendix 47 proposed conditions wildlife approvals (17 November 2025).

4. Summary of approvals sought

- 4.1 Westpower's substantive application report, authored by Mitchell Daysh, states that wildlife approval is sought for the following activities as part of the Project:

- *To catch, handle, salvage and relocate native lizards listed in Schedule 4 from the Scheme footprint.*
- *To gently guide whio / blue duck away from blasting and helicopter use areas.*
- *In the unlikely event if it is required, to capture, handle, and relocate avifauna and long-tailed bats listed in Schedule 5 in accordance with the AMP and BMP.*
- *To incidentally harm or kill wildlife listed in Schedule 5 if the harm or death is not directly intended but is unavoidable and foreseeable and all reasonable effort has been made to meet the conditions in the approval.*

- 4.2 On the 17th of November, the applicant updated their wildlife conditions and management plans to incorporate DOC feedback, including improving consistency with the statutory language. Specifically, Westpower clarified that they seek to "disturb, catch, and liberate whio" in limited circumstances.

5. Matters considered in relation to the criteria for a wildlife approval - general

5.1 Statutory context

5.1.1 Clause 1 of Schedule 7 of the Act defines “wildlife approval” as “a lawful authority for an act or omission that would otherwise be an offence under any of sections 58(1), 63(1), 63A, 64, 65(1)(f), 70G(1), 70P, and 70T(2) of the Wildlife Act 1953”.

5.1.2 Capture, killing and liberating native lizards, whio, bats, and native birds without lawful authority are all offences under the Wildlife Act:

- Sections 63(1) and 70G(1) make it an offence to “hunt or kill” (the definition of which includes related activities such as “taking”, “capturing” and “disturbing”) protected wildlife without lawful authority. This also includes killing that is incidental, which is that which is not directly intended but is unavoidable and foreseeable as a consequence of carrying out an otherwise lawful activity (s 53A).
- Sections 65(1)(f) and s 70P provide that it is an offence to do anything for which an authority is required under the Wildlife Act or any regulations under that Act:
 - Section 56 establishes that no person may liberate; or capture or attempt to capture or have in their possession for the purpose of liberating, wildlife without the prior written authority of the D-G of Conservation.

5.1.3 The activities proposed (capturing, releasing, and killing wildlife) can be considered for wildlife approval under the FTAA. A wildlife approval granted under the Act is treated as if it were granted under the Wildlife Act (Schedule 7, clause 7(1)).

5.2 Purpose of the Wildlife Act

5.2.1 The relevant purpose of the Wildlife Act is to protect wildlife.

5.2.2 The Wildlife Act creates a tiered system, with different levels of protection required for different species. Most wildlife is absolutely protected – meaning that it cannot be lawfully hunted, killed, harassed or possessed without specific authorisation. The Wildlife Act also identifies wildlife that is not protected.

5.2.3 Westpower is seeking wildlife approval in relation to absolutely protected species. In this report, the application and the effects of the Project are considered against the purpose of the Wildlife Act.

5.3 The role of species management plans

5.3.1 Wildlife Act approvals for wildlife salvage typically include approval of a species management plan as part of the process. That is, an applicant provides a species management plan with their application, detailing proposed actions. The detail in the species management plan informs the assessment against the purpose of the Wildlife Act and, if the application is approved, the Wildlife Act authorisation is conditional on compliance with the approved plan.

5.4 Conditions to manage effects on protected wildlife

5.4.1 Westpower has proposed a set of wildlife approval conditions, which include a 15-year term for all approvals.

- 5.4.2 DOC has recommended additional conditions to reflect best practice for typical wildlife approvals of this type, including a re-certification clause at the 10-year mark for the management plans. Additional modifications are suggested to address concerns with the phrasing of some of the conditions.
- 5.4.3 See **Appendix D1** for the full condition set, including tracked changes.

6. Lizards

6.1 Application

- 6.1.1 Site assessments and effects on lizards are detailed in the applicant's Assessment of Ecological Effects (AEE). Details of the applicant's proposed lizard management are provided in a Lizard Management Plan (LMP) prepared by RMA Ecology Ltd, dated 31 July 2025, with an updated version lodged with the Panel on 17 November 2025. All references to "the LMP" are to the updated November version.
- 6.1.2 The LMP outlines the approach to salvage and relocation of native lizards from areas of potential habitat within the Scheme footprint prior to vegetation clearance. Although no lizards were detected during surveys, the applicant has adopted a precautionary approach due to the presence of suitable habitat and the cryptic nature of lizard species.
- 6.1.3 A summary of key aspects of the application in relation to lizards is included below.

Lizard presence

- 6.1.4 Surveys undertaken in 2013 and 2024 found no lizards or signs of lizards (e.g. sloughs, faecal pellets) within the Scheme footprint. However, eight species have been recorded within 20 km of the site, and up to four species are considered potentially present (Table 1):

Table 1. Species identified as potentially present within the Scheme footprint.

Common Name	Species	Conservation Status
Forest gecko	<i>Mokopirakau granulatus</i>	At Risk – Declining
West Coast green gecko	<i>Naultinus tuberculatus</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
Northern grass skink	<i>Oligosoma polychroma</i>	Not Threatened
Newman's speckled skink	<i>Oligosoma newmani</i>	At Risk - Declining

- 6.1.5 The LMP assumes a moderate likelihood of lizard presence in some areas of the footprint, excluding the Construction Staging Area and Spoil Disposal Areas, where surveys confirmed that lizards are highly likely to be absent (noting that lizards can be present but remain below detectability thresholds).

Effects

6.1.6 Vegetation clearance may result in incidental harm or death of native lizards. The LMP proposes salvage and mitigation measures to minimise these effects. The estimated maximum number of lizards that may be encountered is:

- Forest gecko – 20
- West Coast green gecko – 20
- *Oligosoma* skinks – 50

Lizard management

6.1.7 Salvage will be undertaken in four areas prior to vegetation clearance:

- Headworks (0.5 ha) – shrubland and mature forest with potential habitat for geckos
- Power Station (0.5 ha) – river gravels and shrubland suitable for skinks
- Transmission line and access road (5.6 ha) – kāmahi forest and shrubland with gecko habitat
- Doughboy access upgrade (0.2 ha) – regenerating hardwood scrubland.

6.1.8 Salvage methods include manual ground searches, basking lizard searches, and machine-assisted salvage (Power Station site only). Effort will be proportional to the likelihood of lizard presence, with estimated person search hours ranging from 15 to 30 per area. Vegetation clearance will follow a marked and staged process, with salvage undertaken immediately prior.

6.1.9 Captured lizards will be held for up to 72 hours before release to ensure clearance of immediate habitat and reduce the risk of return. Handling will follow wildlife approval conditions, with data collected on species, age class, GPS location, and photographs. Lizards will be housed individually within shoebox-sized, ventilated containers with damp leaf litter.

6.1.10 Contingencies are provided if clearance of a capture site is delayed. This allows for lizards to still be released into suitable habitats approximately 500 m from the salvage site and within DOC administered / Crown land.

Release sites

6.1.11 Lizards will be released into suitable habitat within 100–500 m of the salvage location. Proposed release areas include:

- Headworks – 2.8 ha of adjoining shrubland
- Power Station – 0.5 ha of terrace habitat and 7.5 ha downriver
- Transmission corridor – 18 ha of surrounding kāmahi forest
- Doughboy – 10 ha of regenerating hardwood scrubland.

6.1.12 No habitat augmentation is proposed, but cleared vegetation may be reused to enhance ground-dwelling lizard habitat. Predator control may be implemented as part of a broader

ecosystem programme, including a proposed contribution to the Zero Invasive Predators initiative.

Monitoring and reporting

- 6.1.13 No post-release monitoring is proposed due to the expected low number of salvaged individuals. A salvage report will be submitted to DOC detailing methods, outcomes, and data collected.

Contingency measures

- 6.1.14 If salvage proves ineffective, the project ecologist will revise the approach in consultation with DOC. If clearance occurs outside the active lizard season (October–April), salvage will not be undertaken, and a financial contribution of \$5,000 shall be made to an ecosystem programme to the direct benefit of West Coast lizard conservation for each year that clearance outside of the approved lizard salvage season occurs.

6.2 DOC assessment

- 6.2.1 DOC supports the precautionary approach taken in identifying species potentially present, noting that three surveys have detected no lizards to date and that the LMP includes an assessment of very low population densities. The plan appropriately lists species that may occur and outlines potential impacts on Threatened or At Risk species in accordance with the New Zealand Threat Classification System.
- 6.2.2 DOC considers that best practice principles have been addressed in the LMP, with reference to DOC guidelines and inclusion of a best practice table. However, DOC notes that while methods for temporary holding of lizards has now been provided within the LMP, information on transport options to the nearest wildlife veterinarian, including distance, should also be provided.
- 6.2.3 DOC acknowledges that the application adequately identifies potential adverse and positive effects on wildlife and ecosystems and outlines measures to avoid and minimise adverse effects, including salvage and relocation protocols. Temporary holding of lizards for up to three days and relocation within 100–500 m of the DOC estate is proposed, which DOC considers appropriate.
- 6.2.4 DOC acknowledges that the likelihood of detecting lizards within the c.6.8 ha of potential lizard habitat is low. The LMP states that there are provisions for continuing salvage until captures decline; however, does not provide any information about which species / how many lizards may trigger this being enacted. This should be explicitly stated to avoid any ambiguity.
- 6.2.5 A good level of detail is provided around individual release sites; however, LMP Section 4.2 (Release site management) states that ‘either predator control or a contribution to an ecosystem programme is supported’. It is unclear whether this refers to predator control being undertaken at the proposed release site(s), or at the proposed compensation site (Zero Invasives ecosystem programme). Managing predators at a release site is generally a

requirement of lizard salvage to protect salvaged lizards when they are at their most vulnerable immediately post-release.

- 6.2.6 It is noted that no separate release plan is identified for the release of West Coast green gecko (Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable) if encountered. Given the potential for up to 20 individuals to be present within the overall footprint, DOC does not support these lizards being released into unprotected areas without predator control and protection in perpetuity.
- 6.2.7 Given the Threatened status of the West Coast green gecko, it is expected that provisions should be made to suppress predators at any release site receiving this species. Additionally, triggers should be set in relation to the salvage of a certain number of At Risk lizards (e.g. 20 or more At Risk lizards will trigger either predator control for a limited duration or provision of predator-proof rock refuges).
- 6.2.8 In summary, where Threatened or At Risk species are salvaged, there should be conditions requiring additional mitigation at release sites with thresholds relating to the number of animals salvaged and their threat status.
- 6.2.9 DOC recommends the applicant create a contingency plan identifying additional activities to be triggered by the detection of the West Coast green gecko. These may include compensation funding to a programme with demonstrable benefit to West Coast green gecko. This should be subject to DOC's approval to ensure that funding is directed in a manner that will achieve species management objectives for West Coast green geckos and contributes towards species recovery.
- 6.2.10 Overall, DOC considers that while the LMP generally incorporates best practice principles, additional detail is needed to ensure lizard welfare is fully safeguarded during implementation, if any or all potentially present species are detected; and additional measures are required in the event Threatened or At Risk species are present and require salvage.

7. Avifauna

7.1 Application

- 7.1.1 Site assessments and effects on avifauna are detailed in the applicant's Assessment of Ecological Effects (AEE). Details of the applicant's proposed avifauna management are provided in an Avifauna Management Plan (AMP) dated 11 July 2025.
- 7.1.2 The AMP outlines the methods proposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on indigenous avifauna, including whio (blue duck), during construction and, to a limited extent, during operational maintenance and emergencies.
- 7.1.3 The AMP applies to all indigenous bird species potentially present in the area, including Threatened and At Risk species, as well as non-threatened species with local significance

such as western weka, kererū, rifleman, and brown creeper. A full list of species included can be found in Table 2.

Table 2. Species identified as potentially present within the Scheme footprint

Common Name	Species	Conservation Status
Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>	Endangered – Decreasing
Blue duck / Whio	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>	Endangered – Decreasing
South Island kākā	<i>Nestor m. meridionalis</i>	Not Listed
Long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>	Not Listed
Bush falcon / Karearea	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Listed
Grey duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
Yellow-crowned parakeet / Kākāriki	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>	Near Threatened – Decreasing
South Island pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
South Island robin	<i>Petroica a. australis</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
South Island fernbird	<i>Bowdleria p. punctata</i>	Not Listed
New Zealand pipit	<i>Anthus n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Stable
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	Least Concern – Increasing
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	Not Listed
Western weka	<i>Gallirallus a. australis</i>	Not Listed
Welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo n. neoxena</i>	Least Concern – Increasing
South Island tomtit	<i>Petroica m. macrocephala</i>	Not Listed
South Island fantail	<i>Rhipidura f. fuliginosa</i>	Not Listed
Brown creeper	<i>Mohoua novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing

Tui	<i>Prothemadera n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
Bellbird	<i>Anthornis m. melanura</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
Grey warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	Least Concern – Stable
South Island rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris chloris</i>	Not Listed
New Zealand kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus vagans</i>	Not Listed
Morepork	<i>Ninox n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Stable
Shining cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx l. lucidus</i>	Not Listed
New Zealand pigeon / Kererū	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Increasing
White-faced heron	<i>Egretta n. novaehollandiae</i>	Least Concern – Unknown
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus</i>	Not Listed
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops l. lateralis</i>	Least Concern – Stable
Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Least Concern - Stable
Pukeko	<i>Porphyrio m. melanotus</i>	Not Listed
Swamp harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	Least Concern - Stable
Paradise shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	Least Concern – Stable
Common redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Not Listed

Effects

7.1.4 Potential adverse effects on avifauna include:

- Injury or mortality during vegetation clearance, traffic or construction
- Habitat loss or modification
- Disturbance from noise, vibration, lighting and human activity
- Disruption to breeding, roosting and foraging
- Specific risks to whio including sedimentation, hearing loss, habitat fragmentation and reduced duckling access over weir structures.

Avifauna management

7.1.5 The AMP divides the Scheme footprint into four areas, with Areas 1 (Headworks) and 2 (Power Station and access route) identified as having the greatest potential for adverse effects.

7.1.6 To minimise impacts, the applicant proposes the following management measures:

- Habitat disturbance: Avoid vegetation clearance during breeding seasons where practicable; implement pre-clearance surveys for nesting birds; retain riparian habitat features such as large rocks.
- Noise and light: Limit construction and lighting between dusk and dawn; use shielded, low-intensity lighting; manage helicopter flight paths to reduce disturbance.
- Collision and electrocution: Use conductor spacing and line marking to reduce transmission line risks.
- Roadkill: Impose speed limits and restrict traffic during sensitive times.
- Whio-specific measures: Shepherd whio away from construction zones prior to blasting or piling; provide duckling access over weir structures if practicable; monitor nests and halt works within 50 m of active nests until fledging or abandonment.

7.1.7 Vegetation clearance protocols include pre-clearance surveys for active nests of falcon, kea, kākā, kākārīki, weka, and brown creeper. If active nests are found, clearance is delayed or managed under ecological supervision.

7.1.8 Gravel extraction protocols require surveys for riverine bird nests (e.g. oystercatchers, banded dotterel, pied stilt) and setbacks of 75 m from active nests during breeding season.

Injury and mortality protocol

7.1.9 If an injured or dead indigenous bird is found:

- Works cease immediately at the site
- The incident is recorded and reported
- Injured birds are triaged and may be sent for veterinary care
- Dead whio are sent for autopsy to determine cause of death
- A review of the AMP is triggered if whio mortality is linked to the Scheme.

Release and rehabilitation

7.1.10 Healthy birds may be released into suitable habitat away from active works, under appropriate environmental conditions. The AMP notes that release after rehabilitation is considered unlikely due to disease transmission risks.

Monitoring and reporting

7.1.11 All incidents involving indigenous birds must be recorded and reported

Financial contributions

7.1.12 To compensate for residual effects, the applicant has proposed:

- \$35,000 annually to an ecosystem programme benefiting whio, for the duration of the consent
- \$10,000 annually for each year of vegetation clearance to support regional biodiversity.

7.1.13 DOC notes that currently, all compensation in relation to the wildlife approvals sit within the resource consent conditions. DOC would expect to see compensation sit (and be enforceable under) the approval that it relates to.

7.2 DOC assessment

7.2.1 DOC notes that the application provides a comprehensive assessment of avifauna values generally. Surveys undertaken were thorough and well reported, and DOC considers the proposed measures to protect birds during construction to be adequate given the nature of the works and the relatively small construction footprint. Birds are generally mobile compared with invertebrates and lizards, and DOC agrees that they are more capable of avoiding harm outside of the breeding season. In relation to whio, however, some aspects require clarification and improvement as discussed below.

7.2.2 DOC highlights two additional matters for consideration: the potential presence of kiwi pukupuku (little spotted kiwi) (despite not being detected during surveys), and the electrocution risk to New Zealand falcon (kārearea).

7.2.3 DOC supports the applicant's attention to conductor spacing on transmission lines to reduce electrocution risk but recommends that conditions also address other structures such as transformers on poles, which are known to pose a significant risk if falcons roost or nest there. Transformers may be located downstream of the construction site and should be included in mitigation measures.

7.2.4 DOC notes that a population of kiwi pukupuku has recently been rediscovered in an adjacent catchment to the south, likely benefiting from previous predator control operations. While surveys in the Waitaha Valley have not detected kiwi since 1978, and subsequent acoustic monitoring has not confirmed their presence, DOC considers that the possibility of kiwi occurring cannot be ruled out. Given the limitations of earlier survey methods and the similarity of kiwi calls to weka, DOC recommends that recent acoustic recordings be reviewed to confirm species identification. Although the probability of kiwi presence is low, DOC recommends that this be undertaken as a precautionary measure given the significance of the newly rediscovered local population.

7.2.5 DOC considers the overall framework of the AMP to be generally appropriate but highlights concerns regarding proposed nesting deterrent measures. The AMP suggests implementing deterrents such as fencing in Areas 1 (Headworks) and 2 (Power Station) during peak forest breeding season (November–December) and for whio in the Headworks and Power Station

areas. DOC does not consider these techniques to be realistic or practicable and recommends that the applicant be required to clarify what methods are proposed and to provide evidence of their effectiveness.

- 7.2.6 DOC notes that the AMP includes a provision for review in the event of who mortality or injury, to be undertaken by a suitably qualified who expert in consultation with DOC. However, DOC does not support the proposal that construction can continue while the review is underway. DOC recommends that construction should pause until the review is completed and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented.
- 7.2.7 As identified in paragraph 7.1.7, the AMP includes measures to protect nests but only mentions certain species. DOC notes that it is an offence to disturb or destroy the nest of any absolutely protected species under the Wildlife Act and the AMP and/or conditions of any approval need to reflect this.

8. Bats

8.1 Application

- 8.1.1 Site assessments and effects on long-tailed bats are detailed in the applicant's Assessment of Ecological Effects (AEE). Management measures are provided in a Bat Management Plan (BMP) prepared by Westpower, dated 11 July 2025.
- 8.1.2 The BMP outlines methods to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on long-tailed bats (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) during construction. The BMP applies to all activities within the Scheme footprint that could affect roosting, commuting, or foraging.

Bat presence

- 8.1.3 Surveys indicate a regionally significant population of long-tailed bats in the lower/mid Waitaha Valley. The Scheme footprint is unlikely to contain core breeding habitat, but:
- Tall forest near Morgan Gorge and Kiwi Flat may provide occasional roosts.
 - Morgan Gorge is likely a commuting route between roost sites and foraging grounds.
 - River terraces below Morgan Gorge are important foraging areas (no clearance proposed there).

Effects

- 8.1.4 Potential adverse effects include:
- Incidental harm or death during vegetation clearance
 - Roadkill risk along forested access roads
 - Habitat loss or displacement
 - Noise and lighting disturbance affecting roosting, commuting, and foraging.

Bat management

8.1.5 Key measures proposed include:

- Vegetation clearance:
 - Identify high-risk potential roost trees (DBH >15 cm, hollows, cavities, etc.) before clearance.
 - Acoustic monitoring for two consecutive nights before felling high-risk trees.
 - Fell high-risk trees only between Oct–Apr; avoid Dec–Jan where practicable.
 - Approved bat worker supervises clearance, immediate inspection post-felling.
- Roadkill:
 - Speed limit ≤50 kph on access road above Macgregor Creek.
 - Restrict night traffic during Dec–Jan breeding season.
- Noise and light:
 - Minimise blasting and heavy works between sunset and sunrise.
 - Use shielded, low-intensity, warm lighting (≤2700K), no UV, adaptive controls.

Injury and mortality protocol

8.1.6 If bats are found injured or dead:

- Cease works immediately in the vicinity.
- Contact DOC and a veterinarian, handle bats per BMP guidelines.
- Healthy bats released under suitable conditions; dead bats stored and provided to DOC.
- Review BMP before resuming clearance.

Monitoring and reporting

8.1.7 Acoustic monitoring required for high-risk trees; all incidents recorded and reported to DOC.

Financial contributions

8.1.8 Applicant to provide \$15,000 annually for ten years to an ecosystem programme supporting regional biodiversity, including bats.

8.2 DOC assessment

8.2.1 The long-tailed bat (Threatened – Nationally Critical) is found throughout mainland New Zealand, Stewart Island, and offshore islands. It roosts in tree cavities and forages along forest edges, rivers, and open habitats.

- 8.2.2 DOC notes that the Bat Management Plan generally aligns with the Bat Protocols but raises concerns about proposed flexibility clauses. The plan states that protocols will be followed “apart from minor variations,” which DOC does not support. The Bat Protocol exists to minimise the risk of bat mortality, and any deviation should only occur with formal approval from DOC. DOC recommends that this requirement be clearly stated in the conditions.
- 8.2.3 DOC highlights that the plan focuses on large trees, whereas the Bat Protocol specifies that any tree over 15 cm DBH with bat features (such as broken bark, holes, or slits) is a potential roost. DOC considers that this definition must be applied consistently. Furthermore, DOC notes that bat activity does not necessarily indicate roosting, and assessing roosting potential requires roost watches, thermal imaging and tree climbing by an approved bat specialist, as outlined in the Bat Protocol.
- 8.2.4 DOC does not support the proposal to fell “low-risk” trees at any time of year without reference to the Bat Protocol definition of low-risk trees. This definition should be explicitly adopted. DOC also notes that the plan seeks permission to move roosts if bats remain in a tree for 10 days but no details are provided on how this would occur. Moving roosts without authorisation would be an offence under the Wildlife Act and DOC recommends that this provision be removed (or clarified).
- 8.2.5 Finally, DOC supports the inclusion of lighting restrictions during the operational phase and recommends that conditions specify the use of bulbs with a colour temperature of 2700K or less to minimise blue light and reduce impacts on bats.

9. Incidental harm and killing

9.1 Application

- 9.1.1 The applicant seeks approval “to incidentally harm or kill wildlife listed in Schedule 5 if the harm or death is not directly intended but is unavoidable and foreseeable and all reasonable effort has been made to meet the conditions in the approval.”
- 9.1.2 Schedule 5 lists 39 species expected to be on or around the site including bats, lizards and avifauna, and is reproduced in **Appendix D1**.

9.2 DOC assessment

- 9.2.1 DOC’s technical experts have concluded that the various management plans are appropriate with respect to this element of the approval sought and have not identified any reason approval could not be given. However, DOC notes that the wording of clause 1(e) in the proposed wildlife approval is problematic. The clause states:

To incidentally harm or kill wildlife listed in Schedule 5 if the harm or death is not directly intended but is unavoidable and foreseeable and all reasonable effort has been made to meet the conditions in the approval.

- 9.2.2 DOC considers this wording to be inappropriate as it effectively creates a loophole that could undermine compliance with the approval conditions. The phrase “all reasonable effort has been made to meet the conditions in the approval” sets an unacceptably low threshold and could be interpreted as allowing non-compliance without consequence. Conditions in a wildlife approval must be complied with in full; failure to do so constitutes a breach of the approval.
- 9.2.3 If the panel is of a mind to grant the approval, DOC recommends that the phrase “all reasonable effort has been made to meet the conditions in the approval” should be deleted.

10. Additional information

10.1 International Conservation Agreements

- 10.1.1 Table 3 outlines the international agreements that relate to the protected wildlife for which approval is sought.

Table 3. International conservation agreements.

Relevant Agreement	Signatory date
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity	1992
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Membership and Contributions for Nature Platform	New Zealand became a member in 1948

The United National Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- 10.1.2 The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international agreement that promotes the development of global targets, national strategies and action plans by countries for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- 10.1.3 As a party to the CBD, New Zealand is required to have a national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 sets out New Zealand’s contribution to reversing the loss of biodiversity worldwide.
- 10.1.4 Key objectives of the strategy that are relevant to this application include:
- *Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity.*
 - *Natural resources are managed sustainably.*
 - *Management ensures that biological threats and pressures are reduced through management.*

- *Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient, and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths.*

10.1.5 The application from Westpower seeks to develop modified land in a way that means impacts on resident indigenous species populations are mitigated. The proposal to salvage protected wildlife and enhance habitats at the relocation site via planting and pest control will contribute to protection of biodiversity.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

10.1.6 The IUCN is a globally recognised conservation body and New Zealand's membership reflects its commitment to biodiversity and ecosystem protection. While the IUCN is not a treaty-level agreement, New Zealand's contributions to the IUCN's Contributions for Nature platform and its alignment with global biodiversity targets (e.g. the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) reflect a strong public commitment to species recovery and habitat protection.

10.1.7 The IUCN Red List status of species named in the application is provided in Table 4.

Table 4. IUCN Red List status of species named in application.

Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Red List Status
Long-tailed bat	<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>	Critically Endangered – Decreasing
Northern grass skink	<i>Oligosoma polychroma</i>	Least Concern - Stable
Forest gecko	<i>Mokopirirakau granulatus</i>	Vulnerable - Decreasing
Newman's speckled skink	<i>Oligosoma newmani</i>	Not Listed
West Coast green gecko	<i>Naultinus tuberculatus</i>	Vulnerable - Decreasing
Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>	Endangered – Decreasing
Blue duck / Whio	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>	Endangered – Decreasing
South Island kākā	<i>Nestor m. meridionalis</i>	Not Listed
Long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>	Not Listed
Bush falcon / Karearea	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Listed
Grey duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
Yellow-crowned parakeet / Kākāriki	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>	Near Threatened – Decreasing

South Island pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
South Island robin	<i>Petroica a. australis</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
South Island fernbird	<i>Bowdleria p. punctata</i>	Not Listed
New Zealand pipit	<i>Anthus n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Stable
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	Least Concern – Increasing
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	Not Listed
Western weka	<i>Gallirallus a. australis</i>	Not Listed
Welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo n. neoxena</i>	Least Concern – Increasing
South Island tomtit	<i>Petroica m. macrocephala</i>	Not Listed
South Island fantail	<i>Rhipidura f. fuliginosa</i>	Not Listed
Brown creeper	<i>Mohoua novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
Tui	<i>Prothemadera n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
Bellbird	<i>Anthornis m. melanura</i>	Least Concern – Decreasing
Grey warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	Least Concern – Stable
South Island rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris chloris</i>	Not Listed
New Zealand kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus vagans</i>	Not Listed
Morepork	<i>Ninox n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Stable
Shining cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx l. lucidus</i>	Not Listed
New Zealand pigeon / Kererū	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	Least Concern – Increasing
White-faced heron	<i>Egretta n. novaehollandiae</i>	Least Concern – Unknown
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus</i>	Not Listed
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops l. lateralis</i>	Least Concern – Stable

Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Least Concern - Stable
Pukeko	<i>Porphyrio m. melanotus</i>	Not Listed
Swamp harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	Least Concern - Stable
Paradise shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	Least Concern – Stable
Common redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Not Listed

10.2 Consistency with statutory planning documents and policy

10.2.1 The following statutory planning documents and associated policies are recommended to be considered alongside the wildlife approval sought by this Project.

Conservation General Policy 2005

10.2.2 The Conservation General Policy 2005 (CGP) provides guidance for the administration and management of lands and waters and natural and historic resources managed under conservation legislation including the Wildlife Act.

10.2.3 The CGP does not contain policies specific to the proposed wildlife activities. However, the following provisions are relevant:

- 11.1(a) Any application for a concession or other authorisation will comply with, or be consistent with, the objectives of the relevant Act, the statutory purposes for which the place is held, and any conservation management strategy or plan.
- 11.1(c) The Department and all concession and other authorisation holders should monitor the effects of authorised activities on natural resources, historical and cultural heritage, and the benefit and enjoyment of the public, including public access, to inform future management decisions.

10.2.4 The Wildlife Act application is not inconsistent with these provisions.

West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy

10.2.5 The West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy 2010–2020 (CMS), approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority, sets out objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources within the West Coast region. It provides strategic direction for the Department of Conservation's activities under conservation legislation, including the Conservation Act 1987 and related statutes, and outlines desired outcomes for public conservation lands and waters across Te Tai o Poutini.

10.2.6 The CMS does not contain policies specific to the proposed wildlife activities. However, the following policy is relevant:

- 3.3.3.5(3) *Work on threatened species should focus on preventing extinction and maintaining genetic diversity. Subsequent priorities should include progressively increasing the security, range and population size of species.*

10.2.7 The application is not inconsistent with this provision.

11. Treaty of Waitangi settlement considerations and obligations

11.1 Treaty of Waitangi settlement obligations

- 11.1.1 Under section 7 of the Act the Panel must act in a manner that is consistent with obligations arising under existing Treaty settlements.
- 11.1.2 The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) provided a report which sets out the section 18 matters it considered relevant to the application. DOC was not consulted by MfE on this report.
- 11.1.3 DOC has read the section 18 report and agrees that the primary matter for consideration by the Panel as relevant to the wildlife approval is cooperation with Ngāi Tahu per the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. DOC notes that the affected lizard species are not listed in Schedule 97 as taonga species, although they may still have significance to Ngāi Tahu. Several bird species that the applicant has applied for are taonga species. The panel may wish to take taonga species into consideration.
- 11.1.4 Further Treaty considerations and obligations in relation to the Project can be found in the covering report.

Appendix D1: Wildlife approval proposed conditions

The applicant's latest proposed conditions for the wildlife approval, dated 17 November 2025, have been reviewed by DOC. DOC has suggested changes and additional conditions in red below consistent with a standard wildlife approval under the Wildlife Act. If adopted, these conditions would ensure the approval meets the purpose of the Act and provides adequate protection for absolutely protected wildlife.

DOC notes that “defined terms” used in these proposed conditions may need to be amended to align with other terms defined elsewhere in the relevant decision document of the Panel.

WILDLIFE APPROVAL

THIS **AUTHORITY APPROVAL** is made this [Date] day of [Month] 2026

PARTIES:

~~The Director General of Conservation and the Minister of Conservation (the Department)~~ Waitaha Hydro [FTAA-2505-1069] Expert Panel under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the **Grantor**)

Westpower Limited (the **Wildlife Approval Holder**)

BACKGROUND

- A. ~~The Director General of Conservation and the Minister of Conservation are empowered to issue authorisations or consents for specified acts under the Wildlife Act 1953.~~
- B. The Wildlife Approval Holder proposes to construct the Waitaha Hydro Scheme (**Scheme**).
- C. The Wildlife Approval Holder has applied for a wildlife approval under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 in relation to the Scheme.
- D. A wildlife approval granted under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 has force and effect for its duration, and according to its terms and conditions, as a lawful authority for the purposes of Part 5 of the Wildlife Act 1953 for the act or omission for which the approval was granted and is treated as if it were granted under that Act.
- E. This wildlife approval under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 in relation to the Scheme was granted by an expert panel on [add date].

OPERATIVE PARTS

The Wildlife Approval Holder has been authorised by an expert panel under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to undertake the activities specified in this approval, subject to the terms and conditions contained in this approval and its schedules.

SCHEDULE 1: AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

1.	Authorised Approved activity (Schedule 2, clause 2)	<p>The activities authorised approved are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To catch, salvage and relocate native lizards listed in Schedule 4 from the Scheme footprint. b) To disturb who / blue duck by gently guiding (without catching) them away from blasting and helicopter use areas. c) To disturb, catch and liberate who / blue duck if required to protect their safety. d) In the unlikely event if it is required, to capture and relocate avifauna and long-tailed bats listed in Schedule 5 in accordance with the Avifauna Management Plan (AMP) and Bat Management Plan (BMP). e) To incidentally harm or kill wildlife listed in Schedule 5 if the harm or death is not directly intended but is unavoidable and foreseeable. and all reasonable effort has been made to meet the conditions in the approval. <p><u>Methodology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In accordance with the As set out in the AMP (prepared by XX and dated XX) attached as Schedule 8 to this Approval; and approved by the panel on [insert date]. b) In accordance with the As set out in the BMP (prepared by XX and dated XX) attached as Schedule 9 to this Approval; and approved by the panel on [insert date]. c) In accordance with the As set out in the Lizard Management Plan (LizMP) (prepared by XX and dated XX) attached as Schedule 10 to this Approval; and approved by the panel on [insert date].
2.	The Land (Schedule 2, clause 2)	The Waitaha Hydro Site, As shown on the maps identified in the map included in Schedule 6.
3.	Personnel authorised approved to undertake the Authorised Approved Activity (Schedule 2, clause 3)	A suitably qualified and experienced expert with expertise relevant to the protected wildlife species concerned, as authorised in writing by the Department, and others under the direct supervision of the suitably qualified and experienced expert.
4.	Term (Schedule 2, clause 4)	Commencing on [insert date of approval] and expiring on [insert date 15 years from date of approval]
5.	Wildlife Approval	The Wildlife Approval Holder's address for notices is:

	Holder's address for notices (Schedule 2, clause 8)	146 Tainui Street PO Box 375 Greymouth
6.	Department's address for notices	The Department's address for all correspondence is: {obtain from DOC's West Coast office} Permissions Team Level 4 73 Rostrevor Street Hamilton, 3204 Email: permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz

SCHEDULE 2: STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE APPROVAL

1. Interpretation

- 1.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must provide a copy of these conditions to its employees, contractors or agents and explain the obligations under the conditions.
- 1.2 Where obligations bind more than one person, those obligations bind those persons jointly and separately.

2. What is being authorised?

- 2.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder is only allowed to carry out the **Authorised Approved** Activity on the Land described in Schedule 1, Item 2.
- 2.2 Any arrangements necessary for access over private land or leased land are the responsibility of the Wildlife Approval Holder.
- 2.3 The Wildlife Approval Holder must advise the Department's local Operations Manager(s) prior to carrying out the **Authorised Approved** Activity in the District (where possible, one week prior), when the Wildlife Approval Holder intends to carry out the **Authorised Approved** Activity.
- 2.4 The Wildlife Approval Holder and **Authorised Approved** Personnel must carry a copy of this approval with them at all times while carrying out the **Authorised Approved** Activity.
- 2.5 The Wildlife Approval Holder must comply with any reasonable request from the Department for access to any wildlife.
- 2.6 The Wildlife Approval Holder may publish authorised research results.
- 2.7 The Wildlife Approval Holder must immediately notify the Department of any taxa found which are new to science.

3. Who is **Authorised approved?**

3.1 Only the ~~Wildlife Approval Holder and the Authorised Approved~~ Personnel described in Schedule 1, Item 3 are ~~authorised approved~~ to carry out the ~~Authorised Approved~~ Activity, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Department.

4. How long is the approval for – the Term?

4.1 This approval commences and ends on the dates set out in Schedule 1, Item 4.

5. What are the liabilities?

5.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder agrees to exercise the approval at the Wildlife Approval Holder's own risk and releases to the full extent permitted by law the Director-General and the Director-General's employees and agents from all claims and demands of any kind and from all liability which may arise in respect of any accident, damage or injury occurring to any person or property arising from the Wildlife Approval Holder's exercise of the ~~Authorised Approved~~ Activity.

5.2 This indemnity is to continue after the expiry or termination of this approval in respect of any acts or omissions occurring or arising before its expiry or termination.

6. What about compliance with legislation and notices and directions?

6.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must comply with all statutes, bylaws and regulations, and other statutory instruments associated with the Land. Without limitation, this includes the Conservation Act 1987 and the Acts listed in the First Schedule of that Act and all applicable health and safety legislation and regulation.

6.2 The Wildlife Approval Holder will comply with all notices, directions and requisitions of the Director-General and any competent authority relating to the conduct of the ~~Authorised Approved~~ Activity.

7. Are there limitations on public access and closure?

7.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder acknowledges that the public conservation land being part of the Land is open to the public for access and that the Department may close public access to that public conservation land during periods of high fire hazard or for reasons of public safety or emergency.

8. How are notices sent and when are they received?

8.1 Any notice to be given under this approval by the Department is to be in writing and made by personal delivery, by pre-paid post or email to the Wildlife Approval Holder at the address, ~~fax number~~ or email address specified in Schedule 1, Item 5. Any such notice is to be deemed to have been received:

(a) in the case of personal delivery, on the date of delivery;

(b) in the case of post, on the third working day after posting;

(c) in the case of email, on the date receipt of the email is acknowledged by the addressee by return email or otherwise in writing, ~~except that return emails generated automatically shall not constitute an acknowledgement of receipt of the email.~~

8.2 If the Wildlife Approval Holder's details specified in Schedule 1, Item 5 change then the Wildlife Approval Holder must notify the Department within five working days of such change.

9. What about the payment of costs?

9.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must pay the standard Department charge-out rates for any staff time and mileage required to monitor compliance with this approval and to investigate any alleged breaches of the terms and conditions of it.

10. Biosecurity

10.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must take all precautions to ensure weeds and non-target species are not introduced to the Land; this includes ensuring that all tyres, footwear, gaiters, packs and equipment used by the Wildlife Approval Holder, its staff and clients are cleaned and checked for pests before entering the Land.

11. Are there any Special Conditions?

11.1 Special conditions are specified in Schedule 3. In the event of inconsistency or conflict, the Special Conditions will prevail over this Schedule 2.

12. Can the approval be varied?

12.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder may apply to the Department for variations to this approval in accordance with clauses 7(2) and (3) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

SCHEDULE 3: SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. General

1.1 The ~~Authorised~~ **Approved** Activity must be carried out in accordance with the documents listed in Schedule 1, Item 1.

1.2 The Authority Holder must review the LizMP, AMP, and BMP and resubmit it to the Director-General for certification on or before the 10-year anniversary of the Approval date. The objective of the review is to re-assess habitat conditions and characteristics and update the management plans to reflect current species knowledge, best practice lizard management and mitigation techniques.

1.2 The provisions of the resource consent conditions including ecological compensation (where relevant to this approval) and the AMP, BMP and LizMP form a part of this approval and the Wildlife Approval Holder will undertake the ~~Authorised~~ **Approved** Activity, in accordance with those management plans and relevant resource consent conditions.

Note: DOC considers the above clause is inappropriate and views that compensation measures in relation to the wildlife approvals should sit within the wildlife conditions.

2. Whio handling

2.1 Whio will only be handled (caught and liberated):

(a) if required to protect their safety; and

(b) by a whio specialist or the project ecologist following instructions of a whio specialist.

3. Lizard capture, salvage and relocation

3.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must undertake lizard capture, salvage and relocation as set out in the LizMP and Contingency Plan for West Coast green geckos.

Note: DOC considers that in the absence of an appropriate contingency plan for West Coast green geckos, it will be necessary to introduce new conditions that provide for detection of this species - e.g. stop works and update of the LizMP.

3.2 Clearance of potential lizard habitat may only be undertaken outside of the approved lizard management season (October – April inclusive) in areas that have been subject to pre-clearance salvage effort during the March / April months that immediately precede and do not result in the detection of lizards. Any area that is found to contain resident lizards may not be subject to any winter habitat clearance activities.

3.23 The Wildlife Approval Holder must sterilise any instruments that come in contact with the lizards and/or are used to collect or measure lizards between each location. A separate holding bag must be used for each animal. All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and dried between sites.

3.34 The ~~Approval Authority~~ Holder must ensure lizards are held temporarily in a suitable container (e.g. breathable cloth bag) and placed out of direct sunlight to minimise the risk of overheating, stress and death between capture and salvage, and relocation to the adjoining receiving site.

4. Incidental Discovery

4.1 The DOC Operations Manager for West Coast must be contacted immediately for further advice if lizard species that are not covered by this approval are located within the footprint of the development or within the release site.

4 5. Incidental death of protected wildlife

4 5.1 If any Threatened, At Risk or Data Deficient species should be ~~incidentally~~ killed in the construction of the Scheme, the Wildlife Approval Holder must:

- (a) inform the Department within twenty-four (24) hours of the death;
- (b) chill the body if it can be delivered within seventy-two (72) hours of the death, or freeze the body if delivery will take longer than seventy-two (72) hours;
- (c) send the body to [add] for necropsy along with details of the animal's history;
- (d) pay ~~[add] for~~ any costs incurred in investigation of the death ~~of any Threatened, At Risk or Data Deficient species~~; and
- (e) if required by the Department, cease the ~~Authorised Approved~~ Activity for a period determined by the Department.

5 6. Injured protected wildlife and euthanasia

5 6.1 If any protected wildlife are ~~incidentally~~ injured as part of the ~~Authorised Approved~~ Activity or in the course of undertaking activities associated with the Scheme, the Wildlife Approval Holder must contact a suitably qualified person to get advice on management of the protected wildlife, including how to best address the injury.

5 6.2 If protected wildlife is ~~incidentally~~ harmed by the Wildlife Approval Holder, the Wildlife Approval Holder will take all reasonable steps to rehabilitate protected wildlife, in line with the advice of a suitably qualified person.

5 6.3 The Wildlife Approval Holder is authorised to appoint a qualified veterinarian to ~~euthanize~~ ~~euthanise~~ injured animal(s) on the recommendation of the suitably qualified person. Once euthanised, the Wildlife Approval Holder will deal with the protected wildlife in accordance with condition 5.

5 6.4 The Wildlife Approval Holder must notify the Department's [West Coast Operations Manager(s)] within twelve (12) hours of ~~euthanizing~~ ~~euthanising~~ protected wildlife. The notification will include details of the species of wildlife euthanised and personnel involved in the ~~authorising-euthanasia~~ of the wildlife.

6 7. Reporting

6 7.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must undertake reporting as set out in the AMP, BMP and LizMP.

7 8. Ownership of protected wildlife

~~7~~ 8.1 All wildlife remains the property of the Crown. This includes any dead wildlife, live wildlife, any parts thereof, any eggs or progeny of the wildlife, genetic material and any replicated genetic material.

~~7~~ 8.2 Unless expressly authorised by the Department in writing, the Wildlife Approval Holder must not donate, sell or otherwise transfer to any third party any wildlife collected or otherwise obtained under this approval.

9. Cancellation

9.1 The Department may revoke this Approval in whole or any part at any time (pursuant to clause 7(4) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024) if:

- i. The Wildlife Approval Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Approval.
- ii. In the Department's opinion, the exercise of this Approval has caused, or is likely to cause, any unforeseen adverse effects on wildlife.

9.2 If the Department intends to revoke this Approval in whole or in part, the Department will give the Wildlife Approval Holder such prior notice as the Department considers reasonable and necessary in the circumstances.

11. Bat Protocols

The Wildlife Approval Holder shall follow the Bat Roost Protocols, as attached at Schedule 7 of this Wildlife Approval when felling occupied bat roost trees during vegetation clearance.

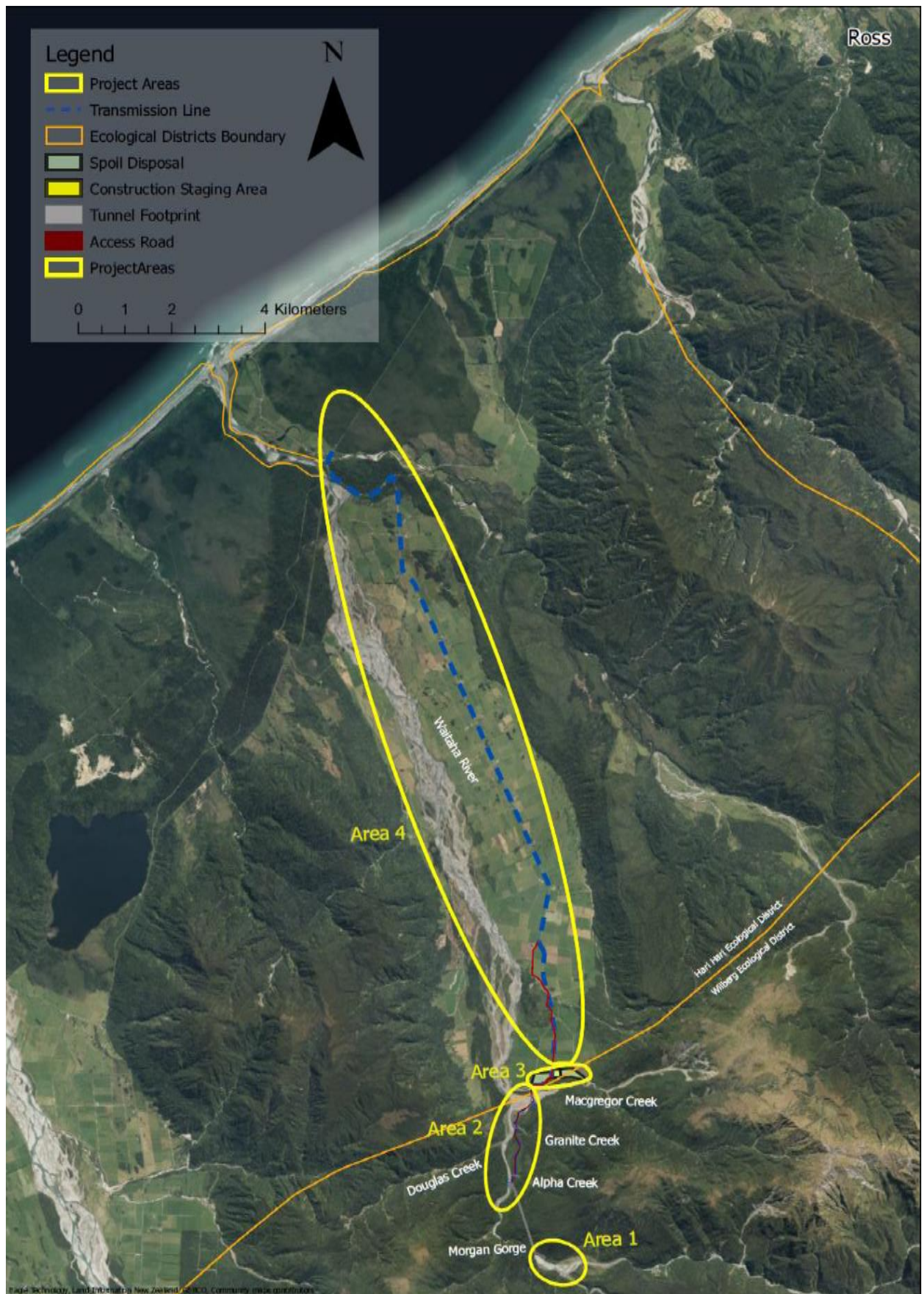
**SCHEDULE 4: LIZARDS THAT THE WILDLIFE APPROVAL HOLDER IS ~~AUTHORISED~~ APPROVED
TO CATCH, SALVAGE AND RELOCATE**

Common name	Scientific name	NZ threat classification
Northern grass skink	<i>Oligosoma polychroma</i>	Not Threatened
Forest gecko	<i>Mokopirirakau granulatus</i>	At Risk – Declining
Newman's speckled skink	<i>Oligosoma newmani</i>	At Risk – Declining
West Coast green gecko	<i>Naultinus tuberculatus</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable

SCHEDULE 5: WILDLIFE KNOWN OR PREDICTED TO BE IN THE SCHEME AREA

Common name	Scientific name	NZ threat classification
Long-tailed bat	<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>	Threatened – Nationally Critical
Northern grass skink	<i>Oligosoma polychroma</i>	Not Threatened
Forest gecko	<i>Mokopirirakau granulatus</i>	At Risk – Declining
Newman's speckled skink	<i>Oligosoma newmani</i>	At Risk – Declining
West Coast green gecko	<i>Naultinus tuberculatus</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
Blue duck / Whio	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
South Island kākā	<i>Nestor m. meridionalis</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
Long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
Bush falcon / Karearea	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
Grey duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
Yellow-crowned parakeet / Kākāriki	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>	At Risk - Declining
South Island pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	At Risk - Declining
South Island robin	<i>Petroica a. australis</i>	At Risk - Declining
South Island fernbird	<i>Bowdleria p. punctata</i>	At Risk - Declining
New Zealand pipit	<i>Anthus n. novaeseelandiae</i>	At Risk - Declining
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	At Risk – Relict
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	At Risk – Relict
Western weka	<i>Gallirallus a. australis</i>	Not Threatened
Welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo n. neoxena</i>	Not Threatened
South Island tomtit	<i>Petroica m. macrocephala</i>	Not Threatened
South Island fantail	<i>Rhipidura f. fuliginosa</i>	Not Threatened
Brown creeper	<i>Mohoua novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Tui	<i>Prothemadera n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Bellbird	<i>Anthornis m. melanura</i>	Not Threatened
Grey warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	Not Threatened
South Island rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris chloris</i>	Not Threatened
New Zealand kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus vagans</i>	Not Threatened
Morepork	<i>Ninox n. novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Shining cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx l. lucidus</i>	Not Threatened
New Zealand pigeon / Kererū	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
White-faced heron	<i>Egretta n. novaehollandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus</i>	Not Threatened
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops l. lateralis</i>	Not Threatened
Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Introduced and naturalised
Pukeko	<i>Porphyrio m. melanotus</i>	Not Threatened
Swamp harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	Not Threatened
Paradise shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	Not Threatened
Common redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Introduced and naturalised

SCHEDULE 6: MAP OF THE LAND COVERED BY THE APPROVAL



SCHEDULE 7: DOC BAT ROOST PROTOCOLS

docCM - Bat roost protocol 2024

SCHEDULE 8: AVIFAUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

SCHEDULE 9: BAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

SCHEDULE 10: LIZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN