

DOCCM:7384655

17 July 2023

Ellie Watson
Environmental Manager SI Renewables
Genesis Energy Limited
West Building L2
335 Lincoln Rd,
Addington
CHRISTCHURCH
Ellie.Watson@genesisenergy.co.nz

Tēnā koe Ellie

WAITAKI AGREEMENT: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CONSERVATION POSITION

This letter confirms my position regarding Genesis Energy Limited's application for resource consents to enable the continued operation of the Waitaki Hydro Electric Power schemes. The application seeks consent to continue taking, using, damming, diverting, and discharging water in the Waitaki catchment for the generation of hydro-electric power.

Consistent with section 6.3 of our DOC-Generators' June 2023 Agreement, I confirm my support for your application for replacement resource consents.

The June 2023 Agreement builds on previous agreements dated 1991 and 2011, which established the Project River Recovery programme. The 2023 agreement commits the applicants to funding the Biodiversity Programme (described in proposed conditions 27- 38 (for Genesis) and 171-184 (for Meridian) of the applications), through payments of \$2.3 million per annum (GST additional where appropriate and CPI adjusted) for the life of the consent (up to 35 years). Those funds will enable more biodiversity-related conservation work, on a broader geographic scale and in terms of intensity, than has been undertaken under the previous agreements.

My decision to support the application, based on Meridian's and Genesis' commitment to fund the Biodiversity Programme, is consistent with the policy direction in Policy 2.6.4 of the Canterbury (Waitaha) Conservation Management Strategy, which is to:

"Engage with Meridian Energy and Genesis Energy, or their successors, prior to the 2025 date for upper Waitaki catchment hydroelectric power resource consents 'renewal', to ensure the continuation of a compensation agreement (currently called Project River Recovery) in response to the ongoing adverse effects of the power scheme and to maintain mitigation achievements since 1991."

The Agreement includes a statement of outcomes anticipated from the Biodiversity Programme - I am confident the Agreement's objective, namely that:

"The Director-General and the Generators will work together towards improving the condition, resilience and ecological processes of indigenous biodiversity and related values of the braided rivers and associated environment including the wetlands within the Catchment."

will be achieved.

The Department of Conservation's prior experience of working together under the existing Project River Recovery, coupled with our increased understanding of braided river and associated wetland ecology and management since 1991, means I have confidence that the proposed replacement Agreement, if implemented, will be successful.

The Agreement therefore fully resolves my interests in Meridian's and Genesis' applications for replacement consents for the Waitaki power schemes. I want to acknowledge the success of Project River Recovery over the last three decades and look forward to seeing what we can achieve as the scope and scale of this work expands through this new agreement.

If you need to discuss any matter associated with this matter then please contact Jo Macpherson (027 2480255, jmacpherson@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Penny Nelson', is positioned above the printed name.

Penny Nelson
Director-General
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



7 February 2024

To: Genesis Energy

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Genesis Energy Resource Consent renewal:

The Central South Island Fish and Game Council (CSIFGC) wholeheartedly supports Genesis Energy's application for the ongoing operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme for 35 years. As the statutory body responsible for managing the sports fish and game bird resource within the Tekapo Catchment, we believe this application aligns with our mission of sustainable resource management.

The Tekapo Catchment fishery is highly valued, attracting 3% of New Zealand's angling efforts to the hydro-canals and Lake Tekapo/Takapo.

We are pleased to confirm that Genesis Energy and the CSIFGC have reached an agreement on the management and improvement of the sports fish and game bird resource impacted by the Tekapo Power Scheme. This agreement demonstrates our shared commitment to preserving the fishery and utilizing our natural resources responsibly.

Genesis Energy's application for replacement water and discharge consents, supported by our agreement, presents a comprehensive plan to manage and enhance the sports fish and game bird resource within the Tekapo Catchment. By extending the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme for 35 years, Genesis Energy shows dedication to responsible environmental practices while ensuring a sustainable energy supply.

CSIFGC believes that our collaboration with Genesis Energy will contribute significantly to the long-term conservation and enhancement of the sports fish and game bird resource within the Tekapo Catchment, benefiting the local community and the ecological health of the region.

In conclusion, the Central South Island Fish and Game Council fully supports Genesis Energy's application for the ongoing operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme. We appreciate Genesis Energy's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship and commend our collaborative efforts. We trust that Environment Canterbury will recognize the merits of this application and the positive impact it will have on our Council and the Tekapo Catchment.

Should you require further information or assistance, please contact us.

Yours faithfully

Steve McKnight
Chief Executive

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka 7948, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 615 8400 Facsimile (03) 615 8401
www.fishandgame.org.nz

2 April 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Letter of Support for Genesis Tekapō Power Scheme Reconsenting Application

I write this letter on behalf of Whitewater NZ (WWNZ) and Tekapō Whitewater Trust (TWWT).

Genesis has worked proactively with both organisations to ensure adequate remediation for recreational users.

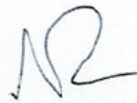
WWNZ and TWWT are satisfied with the provisions agreed with Genesis Energy in relation to recreational water releases at the Tekapō site, and based on this agreement we support whichever consenting pathway Genesis goes ahead with.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding this letter of support.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Buisman
Whitewater NZ President
021 0522 538
president@whitewater.nz



Nick Paulin
Tekapō Whitewater Trust Chairman



25TH February 2025

To

Trinity White
Senior Environmental Advisor
Genesis Energy
West Building, Level 2
335 Lincoln Road, Addington
Christchurch 8024

Subject: Support for Genesis Energy's Tekapo Power Scheme Re-Consent

Tēnā koe Trinity,

Thank you for your update regarding Genesis Energy's decision to proceed with the Tekapo Power Scheme re-consent application through the Fast Track process. We acknowledge this change in consenting pathway and appreciate your continued engagement with the Mackenzie District Council (MDC).

As outlined in our previous discussions, MDC, the Tekapo Community Board, and Genesis Energy have worked collaboratively over several years to ensure that the interests of both the local community and the environment are appropriately considered. We appreciate the commitment Genesis has demonstrated in addressing lakeshore management and community support matters, and we acknowledge that the agreement reached in 2023 remains unchanged despite this procedural adjustment.

MDC and the Tekapo Community Board continue to support Genesis Energy's consent application, which is based on the existing operational parameters of the Tekapo Power Scheme. We note that Genesis has provided assurances that there are no material changes to the scope of the consents being sought, and we appreciate this transparency in your engagement with us.

In alignment with the Fast Track application requirements, we acknowledge our ongoing consultation with Genesis Energy and confirm that we are open to further discussions to ensure the best outcomes for our district. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you, Ellie Watson, and Cornelia Dempsey during your visit to Tekapo on 2–3 April and look forward to further discussions with our team, including Jean Proctor.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information or further formal engagement is required. We value our relationship with Genesis Energy and look forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of our community and environment.

Nāku iti nei, nā,



Angela Oosthuizen
Chief Executive Officer
Mackenzie District Council



18th April, 2023

Rebecca Larking
Chief Operations Officer
Genesis Energy Ltd
Level 6, 155 Fanshawe St
AUCKLAND

Dear Rebecca,

Supporting the forthcoming consent application for the Tekapo Power Scheme

We are aware that Genesis Energy Ltd is approaching the renewal of its resource consent for its hydro canal/generation operation in the Tekapo canal.

As you know, Mt Cook Alpine Salmon operates two salmon farms in the Tekapo canal providing a valuable secondary use of the waterway. Together with our other farms in the Ohau and Benmore canals, our company is the largest employer in Twizel and contributes \$25m - \$30m of export revenues for NZ Inc. For every two people we employ in the town, we employ another three elsewhere across New Zealand in our processing plants, hatcheries and our corporate services team.

We also have a six year strategic partnership programme with the Crown to further develop and evolve aquaculture in New Zealand exploring some quite innovative ideas within the region.

Twizel is our home, our te Kainga and we respect and honour the district. Each year we release up to 100,000 salmon into the lakes as part of our social license in support of Fish & Game's recreational fishing activities, now celebrated around the country.

Our future as a company and all that it implies, depends exclusively on Genesis Energy being able to continue to host our canal operations under materially the same operating parameters as it has over past decades.

Please regard this letter as unconditional support for the consent application and we would be grateful if you could pass a copy onto the decision maker as appropriate.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bill English', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sir Bill English
Chair

cc David Cole (CEO)
Rick Ramsay (Environmental Manager)

10 October 2024

Genesis Energy Ltd/
Trinity White
335 Lincoln Road
Christchurch 8024

Sent via Email: Trinity.white@genesiseenergy.co.nz

Dear Trinity,

Proposed renewal of resource consents for the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme – Genesis Energy Ltd

Genesis Energy Ltd (Genesis) has engaged with the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) to consult on the proposed resource consent replacements as part of the Tekapo Power Scheme. The existing resource consents will lapse in 2025; therefore, Genesis are proposing to replace the following resource consents:

- Water Permit – to dam, take, divert and use water associated with the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme
- Discharge Permit – to discharge water and associated contaminants associated with the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme.

The replacement consents will provide for the continued operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme which will enable the following activities:

- a. The damming of the Takapō / Tekapo River via the Lake Takapō / Tekapo Control Structure (Gate 16) to control and operate the levels of Lake Takapō;
- b. The taking, diversion and use of water from Lake Takapō via the Tekapo Intake Structure for the generation of electricity, and ancillary purposes, at the Tekapo A and B Power Stations;
- c. The damming of the Takapō River at the Lake George Scott Control Weir to control and maintain water levels in Lake George Scott;
- d. The taking, diversion and use of water from the Takapō River via the Tekapo Canal Control Structure (Gate 17);
- e. The discharge of water and associated contaminants into Lake Pūkaki;
- f. The discharge of water and associated contaminants into the Takapō River from Gate 16 for the purposes of spilling water, to bypass Tekapo A, for Lake George Scott water level maintenance and for recreational release purposes; and
- g. The discharge of water and associated contaminants into the Takapō River from Lake George Scott Control Weir for the purpose of spilling water.

NZTA maintains and operates regionally significant infrastructure, which includes the state highway and associated infrastructure, that is within and adjacent to the Tekapo Power Scheme so there is interest to ensure that any proposed activities do not adversely impact this existing infrastructure.

The proposal to replace the existing resource consents by Genesis has been reviewed by NZTA to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the state highway infrastructure. It has been determined by NZTA that there are no fundamental changes to the proposed replacement resource consents than that of the existing resource consents to enable the activities described above. The proposal will not impact on NZTA's ability to maintain and operate the state highway network.

Overall, NZTA provides its support to the proposed replacement of resource consents as these will allow for the continued operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme to generate electricity for New Zealand.

If you have any queries regarding the above or wish to discuss matters further, please feel free to contact the Environmental Planning team at environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Pearson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart Pearson

Senior Planner

Poutiaki Taiao / Environmental Planning, System Design, on behalf of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Reference: Application-2024-1226

10 October 2024

Genesis Energy Ltd/
Trinity White
335 Lincoln Road
Christchurch 8024

Sent via Email: Trinity.white@genesisenergy.co.nz

Dear Trinity,

Proposed renewal of resource consents for the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme – Genesis Energy Ltd

Thank you for your request for written approval from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) under section 95E of the Resource Management Act 1991. Your proposal has been considered as follows:

Proposal

Genesis Energy Limited is seeking resource consent from the Canterbury Regional Council for the following:

- Water Permit – to dam, take, divert and use water associated with the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme
- Discharge Permit – to discharge water and associated contaminants associated with the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme.

The resource consents as described above will replace the existing resource consents that expire in 2025. The replacement consents will provide for the continued operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme which will enable the following activities:

- a. The damming of the Takapō / Tekapo River via the Lake Takapō / Tekapo Control Structure (Gate 16) to control and operate the levels of Lake Takapō;
- b. The taking, diversion and use of water from Lake Takapō via the Tekapo Intake Structure for the generation of electricity, and ancillary purposes, at the Tekapo A and B Power Stations;
- c. The damming of the Takapō River at the Lake George Scott Control Weir to control and maintain water levels in Lake George Scott;
- d. The taking, diversion and use of water from the Takapō River via the Tekapo Canal Control Structure (Gate 17);
- e. The discharge of water and associated contaminants into Lake Pūkaki;
- f. The discharge of water and associated contaminants into the Takapō River from Gate 16 for the purposes of spilling water, to bypass Tekapo A, for Lake George Scott water level maintenance and for recreational release purposes; and
- g. The discharge of water and associated contaminants into the Takapō River from Lake George Scott Control Weir for the purpose of spilling water.

Overall it is considered that there will be no material changes to the hydrological regime of the Tekapo Power Scheme.

Assessment

In assessing the proposed activity, NZTA considers that the proposed replacement resource consents will provide for the continued operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme and will not result in any changes that will adversely impact the safe and efficient operation of the state highway network.

Determination

On the basis of the above assessment of the proposed activity, the New Zealand Transport Agency provides written approval under section 95E of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Expiry of this approval

Unless resource consent has been obtained this approval will expire two years from the date of this approval letter. This approval will lapse at that date unless prior agreement has been obtained from The New Zealand Transport Agency.

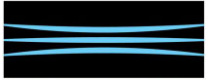
If you have any queries regarding the above or wish to discuss matters further, please feel free to contact the Environmental Planning team at environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Pearson
Senior Planner

Poutiaki Taiao / Environmental Planning, System Design, on behalf of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.



Genesis Energy Ltd
West Building
L2, 335 Lincoln Road
Addington
Christchurch 8024

By email: Karen.Sky@genesiseenergy.co.nz

Tekapo Power Scheme Consent renewals – Fast-track Approvals Act

This letter relates to Genesis Energy Limited's applications to renew its resource consents for the Lake Tekapo Power Scheme, via the Fast-track Approvals Act.

Transpower supports the renewal of the consents for the Scheme. The Scheme is nationally significant asset and plays a vital role in the electricity system –in terms of day-to-day generation of electricity, times of security of supply constraints and in the event of the need to restart the system after failure. This letter expands on the reasons for this support.

Transpower's system operator role

As you know, Transpower is responsible for managing the power system in real time. As part of this role, Transpower operates the electricity market to ensure electricity transmitted through the Grid is delivered whenever and wherever it is needed, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To ensure this transmission, Transpower is responsible for providing information and forecasting to the industry about security of electricity supply – including during times when security of supply is constrained.

Access to water, including during security of supply situations

Over the last ten years (2015-2024), hydro-generation made up around 58% of the electricity generated in the country. It is the dominant source of electricity generation and will continue to play an important role in the system as intermittent generation is constructed. Hydro generation also plays an important role during periods where there are risks to security of supply. In relation to these risks, two scenarios are relevant:

- Firstly, situations where a Security of Supply Alert is in place, allowing generators to access contingent hydro; and
- Secondly, electricity emergencies where an official conservation campaign (**OCC**) has commenced. During an OCC, electricity consumers are asked to voluntarily reduce electricity consumption, with some electricity generators allowed to access additional contingent hydro storage.

To ensure the security of the power system, the availability of hydro-generation and storage is important on a day-to-day basis, and also during periods where there are risks to security of supply. As a significant catchment for electricity generation, a reduction in the availability of water within the Tekapo catchment for electricity generation could have flow on consequences for security of supply, electricity prices and New Zealand meeting its climate change targets in 2050. It is important that there are no actual or perceived barriers to hydro generation and storage.

Risk of electricity shortage and/or shortfall – clearly drafted conditions on Genesis consents required

Transpower wishes to ensure that Genesis has full access to its currently consented storage (as contained in consent CRC905302.3) – both during day-to-day situations and during periods of electricity shortage and/or shortfall.

We are concerned that the wording of its existing consent conditions results in a situation where the consented water is not accessed due to the lake levels changing on 1 October. Less water is accessed for generation on a day-to-day basis to ensure that the 1 October level of 704.1 metres amsl is achieved (rather than the lower level of 701.8 metres amsl that can be accessed between 1 April-30 September). We consider that Genesis should have the ability to access 701.8 metres amsl ahead of 1 October. The lake level would subsequently return to higher levels, as weather conditions and inflows allowed.

Transpower, in its role as system operator, is concerned that the risk of electricity shortage and/or shortfall in the future will mean it is necessary to access contingent storage (as it was in winter 2024). It is important that any consent renewals obtained by Genesis also contain no actual or perceived barriers to accessing water during times of electricity shortage.

In order to access contingent storage, Transpower, in its role as system operator, reports that available controlled hydro storage is at or below the Contingent Storage Release Boundary for New Zealand and/or the South Island (Contingent Storage Release Boundary). This report is determined based on electricity risk curves (which effectively replace “minzones”). Importantly, for the purpose of the Genesis consents (and Waitaki Water Allocation Plan) we could reach this level before 1 October.

Once the available storage is at or below the Contingent Storage Release Boundary, we would expect Genesis to have the ability to access the full lake level range up to the minimum control level (which could be 701.8 metres masl) to help provide additional generation not only through Genesis’ power stations, but through the subsequent six power stations owned by Meridian Energy. We would want Genesis to have this ability for such time as the alert remained in place. The lake level would subsequently return to higher levels, as weather conditions and inflows allowed.

We are also concerned that on its face, consent CRC905302.3 does not appear to envisage a situation where an alert is issued, requiring Genesis to make full use of its consent (to 701.8 metres amsl), but the alert is subsequently lifted prior to 1 October. Favourable weather conditions would also be required before the lake level would rise in the event any alert is issued and subsequently lifted prior to 1 October.

We also note that Genesis’s existing consent contains outdated references, which should be updated through the consent renewal process. The pre-conditions to access contingent storage reference determinations by the (then) Electricity Commission. Due to a determination by the Electricity Authority (which replaced the Electricity Commission in 2010), these pre-conditions are now reported by Transpower.¹ The substantive triggers for accessing contingent storage are unchanged. In this regard, the triggers for accessing the contingent storage after 1 October remain within the purpose of the existing consent (and the Plan). Should contingent storage be accessed, the existing consent appears to recognise, although it is not explicit, that it will take some time (and favourable weather conditions) for the lake level to raise to 704.1 amsl.

¹ The replacement of the then Electricity Commission’s reserve generation scheme and minzones occurred as a result of the Electricity Authority issuing an updated standing reserve supply determination: <https://www.ea.govt.nz/industry/wholesale/security-of-supply/>

In relation to the above matters, Transpower would support conditions on Genesis's consent being updated:

- to reflect the changes in the electricity sector;
- to recognise that it will take some time (and favourable weather conditions) for lake levels to rise if Genesis makes full use of the lake levels referenced in its existing consent conditions, on a day-to-day basis, and during times where access to contingent storage is allowed.

We note that the equivalent condition in relation to the hydro generation at Lake Hawea recognises it will take some time for lake levels to raise when lowered.

Black Start

Genesis' assets also play a vital role in relation to black starts – a situation where generation is required to start without any electrical input from the power system.

Designations

Transpower has two designated sites (Tekapo A and Tekapo B) that the generation connects to. We confirm that we are not aware of any changes being required at the designated sites due to the consent renewal applications.

Fast-track process –comments

Transpower may be asked to provide comments to any hearing panel under the Act. We expect comments could be sought as an "other person" (section 17(5)), due to our designated sites (section 53(2)(l)) and/or due to being an owner or occupier of adjacent land (section 53(2)(h) and (i)). Given our concern with the wording of the existing conditions in Consent CRC905302.3, we would appreciate the opportunity to comment on draft conditions.

We are comfortable with this letter being provided to the Environmental Protection Authority as part of your application.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Jo Mooar
Senior Corporate Counsel

joanne.mooar@transpower.co.nz

FORM8A: WRITTEN APPROVAL OF PERSON(S) LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED

SECTION 95E RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT (RMA) 1991

TO: Consents Section
Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Ph: (03) 353 9007
Fax: (03) 365 3194

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application No:

A. Information for consent applicant

- In accordance with s95E of the RMA, an application need not be notified if the adverse effects on the environment are minor and if written approval has been obtained from every person who, in the opinion of the consent authority, may be adversely affected by the granting of the resource consent (An exception is if, in the Council's opinion, it is reasonable to require the obtaining of every such approval).
- The Council provides this form to help obtain such approvals. The documented approval of persons who could be adversely affected by any proposed activity could assist the processing of the application.
- A copy of the application should be made available with this form. Please include a list of documents provided in Part B over page.

The following is to be completed by the applicant prior to this form being completed by the person(s) or organisation(s) giving approval.

Surname:	<input type="text"/>	First names:	<input type="text"/>
Surname:	<input type="text"/>	First names:	<input type="text"/>

OR

Registered company name and number:	<input type="text" value="Genesis Energy Limited"/>
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Property to which the application relates:	<input type="text" value="Tekapo Power Scheme"/>
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Contact person:	<input type="text" value="Elinor Watson"/>
-----------------	--

Phone/email:	<input type="text" value="Ellie.Watson@genesisenergy.co.nz / [REDACTED]"/>
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Description of proposed activity for which application is made: (CRC number if known)	<p>Genesis Energy Limited applies for the following type(s) of resource consent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Permit - To dam, take, divert and use water associated with the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme. - Discharge Permit - To discharge water and associated contaminants associated with the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme. <p>CRC240290 and CRC240291</p>
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B. Information for person(s) or organisation(s) giving approval

Please ensure that you have read and understood the following notes before deciding whether or not to sign this form.

- The person(s), organisation(s) and/or property listed below are those which the applicant considers could be adversely affected by the proposed activity described above. The applicant may seek approval before lodging the application, but it is the Council which must decide which persons, organisations or properties may be adversely affected.
- You may wish to seek legal advice before you sign this form.
- If there is a hearing, you may withdraw your written approval before the date of the hearing (s104(4) RMA).
- If there is no hearing, you may withdraw your written approval any time before the consent is decided (s104(4) RMA).
- Conditional written approvals cannot be accepted.
- There is no obligation to sign this form, and no reasons need to be given.
- If this form is not signed, the application may be notified with an opportunity for submissions if Council deems there are affected persons, organisations or properties.
- If signing on behalf of a trust or company, please provide additional written evidence that you have signing authority.
- Contact Environment Canterbury Customer Services on 0800 324 636 if you have any questions or concerns.

The following is to be completed by person(s) or organisation(s) giving approval.

Surname:	Commissioner of Crown Lands	First names:	
Phone:		Email address:	
Property address:	LINZ Wellington		
CRC or bore number likely to be affected:			

My interest in the above property is as:

☒ Owner

☐ Occupier

I have authority to sign on behalf of all other owner(s)/occupier(s) of the above property:

☒ Yes

☐ No

This is written approval for a resource consent application for the following activity:

I have read the full application for resource consent, the Assessment of Environmental Effects and have viewed any site plans (please list all document names and dates below):

☐ Yes ☐ No

CRC240290
CRC240291

In signing this written approval, I understand that the Council must then decide that I am no longer an affected person, and the Council must not have regard to any adverse effects on me.

☒ Yes ☐ No



Signature

21-09-2023

Date

James Terlesk

Full name of person signing – please print