



1 September 2025

Fast Track Consenting Panel
c/o Ministry for the Environment
Wellington, New Zealand

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Support for Genesis Energy's Tekapo Power Scheme Reconsenting Application

This letter is to reaffirm Central South Island Fish & Game Council's previous support for Genesis Energy's application to reconsent the Tekapo Power Scheme on the basis of their existing operations.

We understand that the Fast Track Panel has received comments suggesting that a minimum flow to the Takapō River should be considered. The Central South Island Fish & Game Council (CSIFGC) does not support a deviation from the status quo operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme. A minimum flow would have adverse implications for the activities that have been successfully established consequent to the existing operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme.

Specifically, a minimum flow into the Tekapo River would change the operation of the Tekapo Power Scheme and result in more regular scheme shutdowns. This would adversely impact productivity in the hugely popular Tekapo Canal sports fishery. The Te Manahuna Mackenzie Basin hydro canal fishery (which includes the Tekapo, Pūkaki and Ōhau canals) makes a significant contribution to the local economy, with a total economic impact of \$13.6 million for the 2022–2023 fishing season, representing approximately 3.5% of the total GDP of the region.

We have learned experiences with similar efforts in the Upper Ohau River, where despite negotiated residual flows and habitat modelling, the trout fishery did not recover as anticipated. The 2016 spawning survey report to the Central South Island Fish and Game Council highlighted that while flows created angler interest, ecological limitations such as sedimentation, periphyton growth, and lack of suitable spawning gravels prevented meaningful fishery restoration.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

Central South Island Region

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In contrast, the canal fisheries—enabled by the current operational regime—have flourished and now support a world-class angling experience. Any change to the flow regime that compromises this success would be counterproductive to both ecological and recreational outcomes.

We therefore support Genesis Energy's application as it stands and urge the Panel to maintain the current operational framework of the Tekapo Power Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. McKnight", is positioned above the printed name.

Steve McKnight
Chief Executive