

Your ref: FTAA-2503-1036  
Our ref: 12656630

20 May 2025

Helen Willis  
Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
Wellington 6143  
New Zealand

### **Fast-Track Approvals Application: Lake Pukaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works**

Dear Helen

Meridian Energy Limited (MEL) lodged a Fast Track Referral Application on 17 April 2025 for Lake Pukaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience works.

As part of that application MEL identified a number of different approvals that are required to facilitate the works. This includes approvals under the Waitaki Catchment Allocation Plan, the Canterbury Regional Land and Water Plan and the Canterbury Air Regional Plan.

A 'Preliminary Ecological Assessment' was prepared by Tonkin and Taylor in April 2025, to inform the referral application. This assessment concluded that no mitigation measures were likely to be required with respect to the protection of lizards under both the hydro storage and dam resilience works. Notwithstanding this, further discussions have indicated that there remains a small residual risk of lizards being within the stockpile areas associated with the rock armouring works area.

Accordingly, acting with an abundance of caution, MEL seek to update the application, to include a Wildlife Authority under the Wildlife Act 1953 for disturbance of lizard habitat, and the capture, holding and relocation of any lizards present to an alternative area of established habitat.

Given the anticipated programme for consideration of the substantive fast track application, it is unlikely that a lizard survey will be able to be carried out prior to the application being considered (lizards are only active between October and April). Accordingly, as part of substantive application MEL will provide an assessment of any areas of potential lizard habitat within the works area and will provide a Lizard Relocation Plan setting out the lizard identification and relocation methodology that will be followed during the works.

MEL do not consider that the inclusion of this additional matter changes the nature of the application, nor gives rise to any additional information requirements beyond that provided with the original application.

Regards



**Amy Callaghan**  
Technical Director - Planning

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