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23 July 2025

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Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

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waikatoregion.govt.nz
0800 800 401

Kia ora

FTAA-2505-1070 – King Country Energy – Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Kuratau Hydro-Electric Scheme Application

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the referral application for the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Scheme to use the fast-track consenting process under the Fast Track Approval Act 2024. Please find attached the Waikato Regional Council's comments on this application. These comments were approved under delegated authority on 23 July 2025.

Waikato Regional Council looks forward to further involvement in relation to this application. Should you have any queries regarding the content of this document please contact Hugh Keane, Team Leader – Consents, directly on s 9(2)(a) or by email s 9(2)(a)

Nāku noa nā

AnaMaria d'Aubert
Manager – Regional Consents
Resource Use Directorate

He taiao mauriora Healthy environment

He hapori hihiri Vibrant communities

He ōhanga pakari Strong economy

Invitation to provide written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

You have been invited to provide written comments to the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) on an application to refer a project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing this template.

Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Written comments must be received by MfE, on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure, no later than the due date.

Important information

Your personal information will be held by MfE and be used in relation to the project application and process. You have the right to access and correct personal information held by MfE.

A copy of your comments, including all personal information, will be provided to the Minister and the applicant.

If you are a corporate entity making comments on this application, your full contact details will be publicly available.

For individuals, your name will be publicly available, but your contact details (phone number, address, and email) will not be publicly available.

A copy of your comments will also be published on the Fast-track website. If you believe any of the information you have provided is confidential or sensitive and should be withheld from publication, please highlight the information concerned and provide an explanation to support your request for withholding it. Your comment and explanation will be decided by the Ministry on whether to withhold the information from publication.

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All information held by MfE is subject to the Official Information Act 1982.

More information on the fast-track approvals process and providing comments can be found at [Process overview](#) | [Fast-track website](#)

Insert Fast-track logo

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Project name	Kuratau Hydro Electric Scheme
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Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

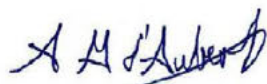
All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Waikato Regional Council		
*First name	AnaMaria		
*Last name	d'Aubert		
Postal address	Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	s 9(2)(a)
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and the project name on the additional pages.

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Managers signoff



AnaMaria d'Aubert

Date 23 July 2025

Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please also confirm this in writing.

No applications have been lodged with the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) that would be a competing application.

A “renewal” application from King Country Energy Ltd (KCE, the applicant) has already been lodged with the WRC in June 2023 for the same activities. This application is currently on hold, under s92 RMA.

In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please also confirm this in writing.

No other consents exist to which this applies.

Is the project of national or regional significance?

Because the current hydro scheme meets the regionally significant infrastructure definition in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, it follows that WRC staff consider the project is of regional significance. There is insufficient information to determine whether the project is of national significance.

Is this project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies.

Relevant activities and rules

WRC is of the view that the application is a discretionary activity under the Waikato Regional Plan (WRP) and notes that this is contrary to the applicant’s assessment as a controlled activity. WRC staff have received legal advice which confirms the controlled activity rule 3.6.4.10 is out of scope for a 16 m³/s discharge.

The controlled activity rule 3.6.4.10 is not relevant to a ‘like for like’ replacement application (for 16 m³/s) for KCE because the rule is for activities lawfully established or authorised before the date of notification of the WRP – 28 September 1998. Previous licences authorised before the date of notification, issued to King County Electric Power Board for the Lake Kuratau hydro scheme say; *“King Country Electric Power Board is hereby authorised to obstruct, impound or divert the waters of the Kuratau River (hereinafter referred to as ‘the said stream’), situated in the Country of Taumarunui and to take and use therefrom for the purpose hereinafter set forth, a stream of water not exceeding 400 cubic feet per second at any one time.”* The 400 cubic feet per second is about 11.3 m³/s which is what was lawfully established and authorised on 28 September 1998. Therefore, for a 16 m³/s discharge, rule 3.6.4.14 for a discretionary activity is relevant.

WRC staff have identified that for this referral application the following activities require authorisation as set out in the table below. The referral application has not expressed the activities in these terms but rather grouped them into 3 general activities.

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Activity	Activity Description	RMA and WRP rule
Discharge - Water	Discharge water from the Kuratau spillway structure to the Kuratau River	S15 and 3.6.4.14 Discretionary Activity Rule
Discharge - Land	To discharge water and contaminants from the Kuratau Canal to land	S15 and 5.2.5.8 Controlled Activity Rule
Discharge - Water	To discharge water and contaminants to the Kuratau River from the Kuratau Power Station	S15 and 3.6.4.14 Discretionary Activity Rule
Dam	Dam the Kuratau River with an earth dam to form Lake Kuratau	S14 and 3.6.4.14 Discretionary Activity Rule
Surface Water Take	Take water from the Kuratau River via the Kuratau Canal	S14 and 3.6.4.14 Discretionary Activity Rule
Bed Structure –	To use the existing Kuratau Dam, Kuratau Spillway and intake structure on the bed of Lake Kuratau	S13 and 3.6.4.14 Discretionary Activity Rule
Use	To use water for the purpose of electricity generation	S14 and 3.4.5.4 Permitted activity rule

Existing Environment considerations

WRC staff have given consideration to the existing environment and received legal advice to support this consideration. Case law has confirmed that for activities seeking to be reconsented, the activities subject to those consents should not form part of the existing environment. This is because it cannot be assumed that existing consents with finite terms will be replaced or replaced with the same conditions. As per the High Court decision of *Ngāti Rangi Trust v Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council* it is the view of WRC staff that the existing environment is the altered regime that would naturally establish behind the dam structure if it was no longer operational as a hydro dam. This would require all control gates or structures under the control of the applicant to be opened, so that water could freely flow over the spillway, penstocks and through any other diversion. The existing environment includes the dam structure but not the activities requiring resource consent to provide for the operation of the hydro-electricity generation scheme under sections 14 and 15 of the RMA.

National Environmental Standards, National Policy Statements, Waikato Regional Plan and Regional Policy Statement

National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water – A search of Taumata Arowai public register shows the nearest downstream registered drinking water supplier is from Lake Taupo near the mouth of the Kuratau River, for Omori/Kuratau/Pukawa community take, supply ID OMO001. There are also additional registered drinking water supplies that take water from Lake Taupo and the main stem of the Waikato River. Water quality effects are not anticipated to be a significant issue and if so, WRC staff expect the application will be consistent with this NES.

National Environmental Standard for Freshwater – Part 3 – Standards that relate to freshwater applies to this application for the damming of water within 100m of a natural inland wetland. The application could fit within Regulation 46 for the *Maintenance and Operation of Specified Infrastructure and Other*

Infrastructure, provided it met all relevant conditions. There is uncertainty whether the application can meet 46(4)(b) as the scheme is set up to discharge a maximum of 11 m³/s, however the applicant has indicated they have plans to increase the scheme to discharge 16 m³/s.

NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 - WRC staff consider the application will be consistent with this NES.

NPS Freshwater Management 2020, WRP and Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS)- WRC staff are unable to determine whether the application will be consistent with these planning documents. Information gaps have been highlighted in the s92 request for further information to the applicant as part of the RMA process. The information is required to make a complete assessment and review.

Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010 - Water is taken from Lake Kuratau on the Kuratau River at a rate greater than 5 litres per second, used to generate electricity and effectively returned in full without significant delay to the Kuratau River a kilometre or so from where it was taken. The regulations will not apply if it is appropriate to consider that the location of water return is near the location from which water is taken.

Iwi management plans - There is uncertainty whether the application will be consistent with the Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki (TKK) and Ngāti Tūwharetoa Iwi Environmental Management Plan 2015. The s92 requested results of consultation with iwi to help understand if the activities will be consistent with the relevant plans.

Any benefits of project

WRC staff agree with the positive benefits from this project as listed by the applicant in the application including the renewable energy production for the region, and a recreation environment for the community in the form of Lake Kuratau.

Significant issues of project

On 22 November 2024 a section 92(1) request for further information was sent to the applicant as part of the renewal application under the RMA process. To date, the information requested has not been received, and WRC staff cannot determine potential impacts on the environment or on persons without this information.

For your convenience and reference, below is a link to a OneDrive folder with an outline of the key dates and information involved so far for the processing of APP145790 and the s92 further information request from Waikato Regional Council.

[APP147837 King Country Energy Ltd - Fast-Track - Kuratau Hydro Electric Power Scheme](#)

https://waikatorc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/charlotte_walter_waikatoregion_govt_nz/EtozvSeTC95Dt_rmALm7jIoBTZTf79af0gXqJiEcAZIFrw?e=IYdOxl

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In summary, the significant issues are: the effects from the intake structure; flow regimes downstream of the hydro scheme and down the dewatered reach of the Kuratau River; aquatic ecology effects; sedimentation and erosion effects; and effects on wetlands.

Lake Kuratau and the Kuratau River are classified as Fishery class for significant trout fisheries, trout habitat, indigenous fisheries, fish habitat and contact recreation under section 3.2 of the WRP. The most stringent conditions apply. Any intake or discharge structure should have a 3 mm mesh screen and a 0.3 m/s maximum intake velocity. Fish passage should also be provided both upstream and downstream of any structure.

Due to the ramping rates of the scheme, there will be a high degree of alteration within the Kuratau River downstream of the tailrace. The daily fluctuations will need to be considered for aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity presence, water quality and the health of the ecosystem. The damming of water and fluctuations in discharge volumes also have the potential to impact sediment transport processes down the length of the Kuratau River, and erosion issues at Kuratau beach have been identified by the community.

A previous report by Murray Cave in 2001 assessing the Patterns and Controls of Erosion in the Lower Kuratau River, Lake Taupo, does not explicitly state a sediment transport bed load threshold. The conclusions of the report include:

- At flows at and below around 6 m³/s there is no movement of suspended material and no visible bed load movement.
- At flows between 6 and 11 m³/s there is no suspended material movement but bedload movement is initiated although it is not significant.
- Bed load sediment movement starts to become more evident above 11 m³/s and is significant at 16 plus m³/s.

This second point infers a sediment transport threshold between 6 and 11 m³/s. While the third point states that bed load transport is significant at 16 m³/s. As such, the Cave 2001 report does not support the use of a 16 m³/s sediment transport bed load threshold. The analysis undertaken by Cave utilised sediment transport tests at a single location in the river. The actual value will vary along the course of the river and care needs to be taken when applying this value to the entire lower river. It would be helpful for KCE to demonstrate the 16 m³/s flow will not result in significant erosion effects.

Currently, there is not enough information to determine the effects from the discharge to land. Repetitive discharges of water, sediment and vegetation to land have the potential to result in the accumulation of contaminants in the soil to the extent that the land becomes 'contaminated'. The discharge has the potential to cause erosion, or accumulation of nutrients and contaminants which have the potential to be discharged to water. The rotting of vegetation also has the potential to cause objectional odour.

Reports and assessments normally required for this type of consent/proposal

The application lodged with WRC in June 2023 was assessed as being complete under s88 of the RMA. A number of reports have been included in the referral application including;

- Assessment of Environmental Effects
- Statutory Planning Assessment
- Economics Assessment
- Hydrology Assessment

- Sediment Assessment
- Aquatic Ecology Assessment
- Terrestrial and Wetland Ecology Assessment
- Natural Character, Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment
- Recreation Assessment
- Dam Safety Report

An assessment against s104 of the RMA would also normally be required.

Iwi authorities or relationship agreements in this area to be considered

Local Tangata Whenua include Ngāti Tuwharetoa.

Relevant stakeholders include the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, landowners bordering Lake Kuratau and Kuratau River downstream of the dam, Omori Kuratau Charitable Trust, and any other person and group who the applicant considers might have an interest in Lake Kuratau Lake and the Kuratau River.



20 JUL 2025

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Three Fast-track Approvals Act referral applications – Received 26 June:

Dear Chris

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on three applications for referral under the Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA):

- Out of Scope [REDACTED]
- Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme, FTAA-2505-1070
- Out of Scope [REDACTED]

I am providing comments in my capacity as Minister for Economic Growth, focusing on whether these applications are likely to have significant economic benefits under section 22(2)(a)(iv) of the FTAA, based on the information provided. I defer to you and other relevant Ministers to assess the remaining criteria.

Out of Scope

Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme - FTAA-2505-1070

This application seeks to renew consents for the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme near Taupō, which generates around 28 gigawatt hours of renewable electricity annually, equivalent to supporting 4,100 households. While its output is modest compared to larger

schemes, the continued operation would allow use of existing infrastructure to support regional energy resilience and avoid costly capital investments from building a new power scheme.

Although limited economic data was provided, the scheme supports local businesses and contributes approximately \$1 million annually to the local economy, along with four full-time equivalent jobs. The primary economic benefit of this proposal is maintaining a stable energy supply that supports local businesses in Waikato. This is important for regional growth and aligns with initiatives supporting a growing economy.

Given its role in renewable generation, the application may be best assessed under section 22(2)(a)(vii) for its contribution to climate change mitigation.

Out of Scope

Sincerely



Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for Economic Growth

From: [Rob Schick](#)
To: [FTAreferrals](#)
Subject: FW: Fast track application - Kuratau Hydro Electric Power Scheme
Date: Friday, 25 July 2025 9:42:27 am

Morning team, please see comments below from Minister Watts as Minister for Energy and Minister of Climate Change.

From: Peter Southey-Jensen [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Friday, 25 July 2025 9:41 AM
To: Rob Schick [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Cc: Emily Young [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Subject: Fast track application - Kuratau Hydro Electric Power Scheme

Hi Rob,

Please see below the approved comments from the Minister for Energy and Climate Change on the application:

“In my capacity as Minister of Climate Change I consider that the project will support climate change mitigation and adaptation and that this factor should be taken into account in your consideration of whether the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits.

In my capacity as Minister for Energy I note that the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme has a peak capacity of 6 MW and an annual output of 28GWh. This makes it a relatively small project in comparison to New Zealand’s larger hydro schemes.

Smaller hydro schemes collectively contribute to the target of doubling renewable electricity generation (in this, case by consenting existing generation infrastructure) and supporting regional security of supply). Hydro generation with storage (such as with this project) also provides more annual generation than more intermittent sources such as solar and wind.

I therefore consider this project could relate to the continued functioning of regionally significant infrastructure, as per s22(2)(a)(ii) of the FTAA.”

Thanks

Peter Southey-Jensen
Private Secretary (Auckland and Energy)

Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Health | Minister for State Owned Enterprises | Minister for Auckland

Office of Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change | Minister for Energy | Minister for Local Government | Minister of Revenue

M: 021 894 782
Email: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: [Infrastructure Portfolio](#)
To: [FTAreferrals](#)
Subject: FW: FTAA-2504-1070 Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsent project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
Date: Monday, 14 July 2025 2:37:49 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi team, please see comment below

From: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 14 July 2025 1:50 PM
To: Infrastructure Portfolio <Infrastructure.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FTAA-2504-1070 Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsent project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Good day,

Thank you for the below invitation to comment.

Please be advised that Minister Simmonds has reviewed this application and does not wish to provide comment.

Kind regards,



Office of Hon Penny Simmonds

Environment Portfolio

Minister for the Environment | Minister for Vocational Education
Associate Minister for Social Development | MP for Invercargill

Website: www.beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Infrastructure Portfolio <Infrastructure.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 9:18 am
To: Nicola Willis (MIN) <N.Willis@ministers.govt.nz>; Shane Jones (MIN) <S.Jones@ministers.govt.nz>; Penny Simmonds (MIN) <P.Simmonds@ministers.govt.nz>; Simon Watts (MIN) <S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz>
Cc: FTAreferrals <ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsent project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – FTAA-2504-1070

To:

Minister for Economic Growth
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Energy
Minister of Climate Change

Dear Ministers,

Hon Chris Bishop, the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister), has asked for me to write to you on his behalf.

The Minister has received an application from Kings Country Energy Limited for referral of the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsent project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process (application reference FTAA-2505-1070).

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

Invitation to comment on referral application

I write in accordance with section 17 of the Act to invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. I have provided summary details of the project below.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received by **return email** within **20 working days** of receipt of this email. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Any comments submitted will contribute to the Minister's decision on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you do not wish to provide comments, please let us know as soon as possible so we can proceed with processing the application without delay.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Process

The application documents are accessible through the Fast-track portal. Please note that application documents may contain commercially sensitivity information and should not be shared widely. If you haven't used the portal before, you can request access by emailing ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz. Once you are registered and have accepted the terms and conditions, you will receive a link to view the documents. Existing users will be able to see application documents via the request when logging into the portal. Should you need for your agency to provide any supplementary information, a nominated person can be provided access to the portal, access can be requested by emailing ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz.

To submit your comments on the application, you can either provide a letter or complete the attached template for written comments and return it by replying to this email, infrastructure.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this email or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz. Further information is available at <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/>.

Important Information

Please note that all comments received from Ministers invited to comment will be subject to the Official Information Act 1982. Comments received will be proactively released at the time the Minister for Infrastructure makes a referral decision, unless the Minister providing comments advises the Minister for Infrastructure's office they are to be withheld, at the time they are submitted.

If a Conflict of Interest is identified by the Minister providing comments at any stage of providing comments, please inform my office and the Cabinet Office immediately. The Cabinet Office will provide advice and, if appropriate, initiate a request to the Prime Minister to agree to a transfer of the project/portfolio invite to another Minister (a request to transfer a COI from one Minister to another can take 1-7 days).

Project summary

Project name	Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme
Applicant	King Country Energy Limited
Project description	The project is to renew the consents, as they are, for the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme (HEPS) approximately 36 km southwest of Taupō and approximately 2.5 km north-west of Kuratau Village. The Scheme has an installed generation capacity of 6 megaWatts and generates on average 28 gigaWatt-hours per year and currently generates renewable electricity by: - damming of the Kuratau River with an earth dam to form Lake Kuratau; - the discharge of water from the Kuratau spillway to the Kuratau River; - the take and use of water and the discharge of contaminants from the canal to land; and - the discharge of water from the Kuratau power station turbines to the Kuratau River by means of a tailrace.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Infrastructure



Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing | Minister for Infrastructure | Minister Responsible for RMA Reform | Minister of Transport |
Associate Minister of Finance | Associate Minister for Sport & Recreation | Leader of the House | MP for Hutt South

Office: 04 817 6802 | EW 6.3

Email: c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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21 July 2025

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

**Fast-track Approvals Act referral application: Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme,
FTAA-2505-1070**

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application for referral under the Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA 2024).

This letter provides comments in my capacity as Minister for Regional Development. Based on Section 22 of the FTAA 2024, I have considered the project in terms of whether it:

- a. will deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure
- b. will deliver significant economic benefits.

The proposal is to renew the consents of the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme (HEPS), an asset generating hydroelectric power on the Kuratau River on the south-west side of Lake Taupō in the Waikato region. The applicant indicates that the ongoing operation of the asset provides four full-time equivalent jobs and \$1 million contribution to the local economy.

By contributing to the region's renewable energy mix, Kuratau HEPS helps improve the region's general economic resilience (e.g. by reducing reliance on fossil fuels which can be exposed to supply chain shocks), and by supplying electricity directly, contributes to the region's economic potential and prosperity.

The Kuratau HEPS' output is relatively modest, enough to power roughly 4,100 homes, and so it is likely to be considered much less economically significant than other schemes in the region and across New Zealand. There may be some local business and/or community disruption (and associated economic cost) in the event of power supply issues, should Kuratau HEPS not be re-consented in a timely manner. However, the applicant did not provide quantification of these impacts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Shane Jones'.

Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Regional Development

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

25 July 2025

Project name	Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme (Project) - King Country Energy Limited
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Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Transpower New Zealand Limited (Transpower)		
*First name	Jo		
*Last name	Mooar		
Postal address	PO Box 1021 Wellington 6011		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
Transpower has been identified as an “other person” for the purpose of section 17(5) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (Act). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about the Project, and its potential impact on National Grid assets. The Project relates to consent renewals for the Kuratau Hydro-Electric Power Scheme (Scheme). The Scheme connects to the Lines Company (the electricity distribution business in the area), with excess into the National Grid (referral application, section 2.6.1). The referral application states that there will be no changes to operation of the scheme proposed (section 2.2.1). As a result, the Project will maintain the status quo in relation to impacts on the National Grid.

Transpower supports the Project as it relates to renewable electricity generation and will support climate mitigation (section 22(2)(a)(vii) of the Act). The Project will also deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure (section 22(2)(a)(ii) of the Act).

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.