

10 October 2025

Response to Minute 2 of the Panel of the Convenor [FTAA-2505-1069]

Please find below the response of the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) to the matters raised in Minute 2 of the Panel Convenor regarding the Waitaha Hydro Project.

Approvals

2 consents under the NES-F
2 s9 land use consents required
2 s13 land use consents required
3 s14 water permits required to take, use and divert water.
5 s15 discharge permits to discharge contaminants to water
2 s15 air discharge consents

Complexity

The application is certainly complex with many aspects to be considered and across several agencies with a large volume of information to be reviewed and considered. There is a large amount of technical information to consider and I would anticipate it would take the panel some time to consider and understand. From the WCRC perspective, as the Principal Planner, I have been involved in the process from the start and have had the ability to be fully involved in identifying the consents to be applied for, the information that is required to be supplied, internal hydrological review of the information and a site visit. The WCRC therefore does not have any outstanding matters that either have not been addressed or are in contention or dispute or any outstanding legal matters.

Issues

The WCRC has been fully involved in the composition of the application and proposed draft consent conditions both pre and post lodgement. The involvement has been fully collaborative and the applicant has been responsive to the WCRC's input. There are no issues that have arisen in regard to this application.

There are no consents previously lodged for the same or similar activities in this location.

For previous hydro electricity generation schemes, s92 requests have covered information on matters such as gravel/rock extraction, lake/river levels, recreational effects, safety issues, Natural features and landscapes, other water takes, wetlands, sports fish, NES and NPS analysis and positive effects.

The Waitaha Hydro Project did commence consultation with the intention to lodge resource consent applications back in around 2016/17. During the initial consultation, it became clear that the process with the Department of Conservation would be the longer part of the process and so the consent application was paused at that time. The consent application was not actually lodged and therefore no s92 process initiated.



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Composition of Panel

The WCRC would recommend that as a minimum, the panel would need persons with understanding and knowledge of freshwater ecology, hydrology, engineering, cultural matters and Regional and District Council Planning matters.

Procedural Requirements

I, as the WCRC Planner dealing with this application, and any other appropriate WCRC staff will be willing to engage when and if required.

No other issues have been identified that I need to raise at this point.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Clark

Principal Consents Officer

West Coast Regional Council