

**File Reference:** FTAA-2507-086/BRF-7003

10 November 2025

King Country Energy Limited  
C/- Vanessa Hamm  
Holland Beckett

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Vanessa,

**Notice of Decisions on application for referral of the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024**

This notice of decisions is for an application received from King Country Energy Limited for referral of the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power scheme project (project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) that has been accepted by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) under section 21 and referred under section 26.

The project is to renew all consents required for the ongoing operation of the existing Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme. The Scheme draws from the Mangahao River and generates up to 39.9 megawatts (MW) of electricity with an average annual output of 131 gigawatt (GW) hours - enough to power approximately 20,000 homes in an average year.

The project includes:

- the damming and diversion of water, involving the damming of the Mangahao River at No.1 and No.2 Dam sites and the Tokomaru River at No.3 Dam site, the diversion of Mangaore Stream for erosion control and the diversion of water between reservoirs
- the discharge of water to water associated with all 3 reservoirs and from Mangahao Power Station to the Mangaore and Mangatangi streams
- the discharge of contaminants to water associated with drain valves associated with turbines, cooling water from Mangatangi Stream, stormwater runoff from the Power Station area, sediment flushing from the dams and sediment management activities in the bed of rivers
- the use and maintenance of structures in the bed of a stream or river including the existing dams and associated infrastructure in the Mangahao and Tokomaru Rivers.

The project will require the proposed approvals:

- resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991

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Fast-track referrals are administered on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure by the Ministry for the Environment | PO Box 10362 | Wellington 6143, New Zealand | NZBN: 9429041908853

The project can only be accepted if the Minister is satisfied the criteria in section 22 is met, which includes being satisfied the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits and referring the project to the fast-track approvals process would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes and is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process..

### **Decision on referral application**

The Minister has decided to accept the referral application for the whole project as he is satisfied it meets the criteria in section 22 (s 21(1)(c)) and to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process under section 26(2)(a).

### **Reasons for accepting referral application**

The Minister is satisfied the project:

- (a) is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits; and
- (b) referring the project to the fast-track approvals process –
  - (i) would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and
  - (ii) is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

The Minister is satisfied the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits as it:

- (a) will enable the continued functioning of existing nationally significant infrastructure (s22(2)(a)(ii)) which:
  - (i) supplies 131 GWh annually, enough to power approximately 20,000 homes,
  - (ii) provides 59.3 GWh of firming output over 3,890 hours annually, and
  - (iii) is recognised as a lifeline utility under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
- (b) will deliver significant economic benefits (s22(2)(a)(ix)): as the continued operation of this infrastructure avoids the need of alternative infrastructure at a cost of up to \$130 million and power generation supplied from out of the region
- (c) will support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions (s22(2)(a)(vii)): based on the estimate of avoided emissions associated with other types of power schemes at 67,830 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent if replacing gas-fired generation or 172,208 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent if replacing coal-fired generation.

- (d) will support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards (s22(2)(a)(viii)): as a lifeline utility under the civil defence Emergency Management Act of 2002

The Minister is satisfied that there is no reason they must decline the project under section 21(3) of the FTAA.

**Specified matters for accepted referral application**

The following person who lodged the referral application is the person authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project (s27(2)): King Country Energy Limited.

In relation to a substantive application for the project:

1. The deadline for lodging the application under section 28(3)(d)(ii) is two years from the date of issue of this letter. The substantive application must be lodged by **10 November 2027**.
2. The following information must be submitted with the application lodged for the project (s27(3)(b)(ii)): the following information from the applicant must submit with their substantive application for the project be included in the cultural impacts assessment:
  - (a) evidence of ongoing engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Muaūpoko, and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga.
3. The persons or groups from whom a panel must invite comments from in addition to any specified in section 53 (s27(3)(b)(iii)):
  - (a) Transpower New Zealand Limited, and
  - (b) the Electra Lines Company.

If you have any queries about this notice of decisions, please email [referral@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:referral@fasttrack.govt.nz) and include the name of the Application Lead – Max Gander-Cooper or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 225 537).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller

**General Manager Investment Strategy & Operations  
Partnerships, Investments and Enablement**

cc: Written notice (s28(1)) for accept and decline projects:

the applicant – King Country Energy Limited

any person invited to comment (s17(1)):

- relevant local authorities: Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council
- Minister for the Environment
- relevant administering agencies – Ministry for the Environment
- Māori groups identified in the list provided to the Minister
  - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust, representing Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua;
  - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, representing Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua;
  - Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust, representing Rangitāne o Manawatū;
  - Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, representing Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua;
  - Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated, representing Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga;
  - Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc, representing Muaūpoko; and
  - Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc, representing Ngāti Kahungunu.
- any other person – Transpower New Zealand Limited, Electra Lines Company and the Department of Conservation.

cc: Written notice where the Minister accepts the application and refers the project (s28(2)):

the Panel Convener (including all the related information received by the Minister)

any iwi authorities or Treaty settlement entities (other than those that must be notified under subsection (1)(b)) that the Minister considers have an interest in the matter –

the EPA (including all the related information received by the Minister)

the relevant administering agencies – Ministry for the Environment