



FTAA-2511-1128: Application received for referral of the project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Stage 1 decisions

Project Name: Clutha Pumped Hydro

Date submitted:	26 November 2025	Tracking #: BRF-7231	
Security level:	In-Confidence	MfE priority:	Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure	Decisions on recommendations in Table A	3 December 2025

Actions for Minister's Office staff	Return the signed briefing to: FTAreferrals@mfe.govt.nz Send email to Ministers to invite written comments
Number of appendices: 3	Appendices: 1. Statutory framework summary 2. Application documents for Clutha Pumped Hydro project (in File Exchange) 3. List of the Māori groups referred to in section 18(2)

Ministry for the Environment contacts:

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal Author	Ashiley Sycamore		
Manager	Stephanie Frame	§ 9(2)(a)	✓
General Manager	Ilana Miller	§ 9(2)(a)	

Project location

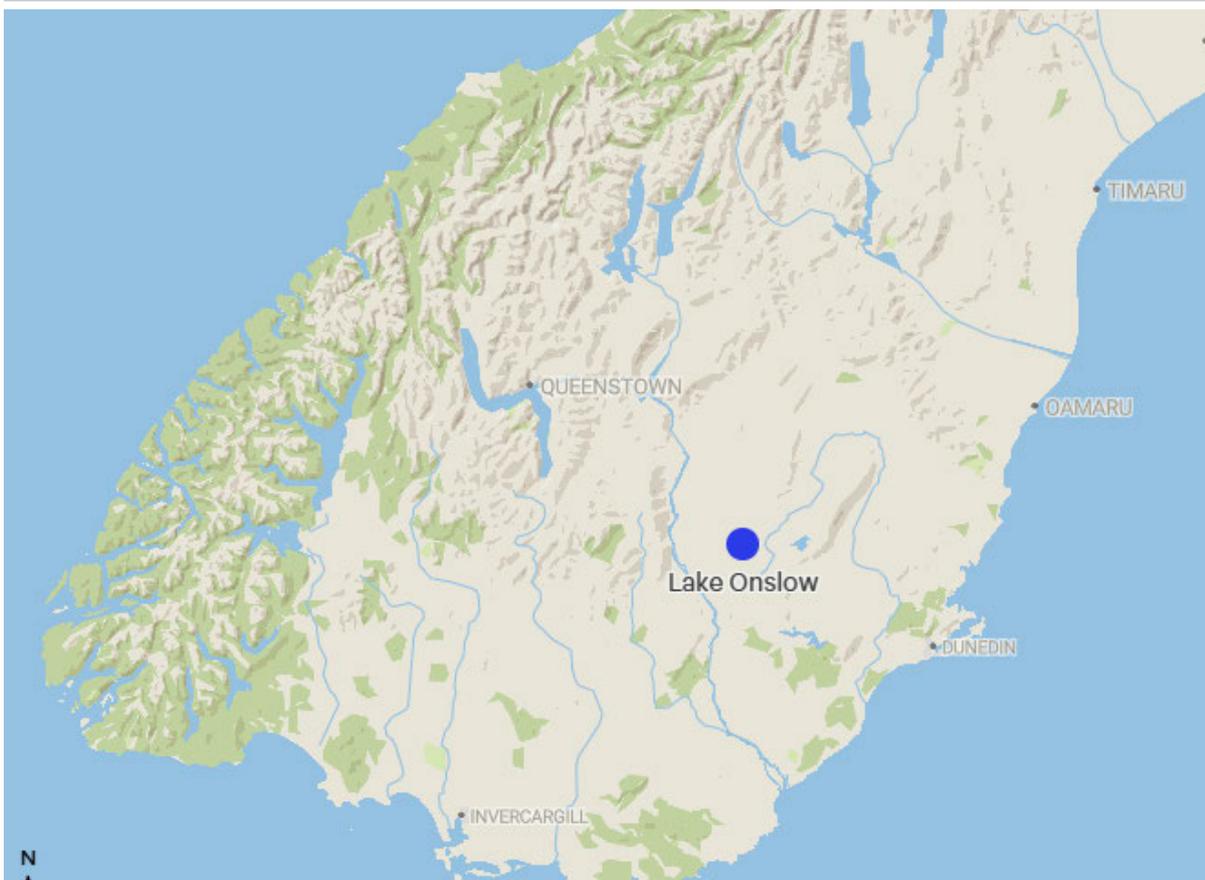


Image 1: Map showing the location of Lake Onslow, with the Mata-au/Clutha River visible to the west and southwest of the lake

Key messages

1. This briefing seeks your initial decisions on an application from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) to refer the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process.
2. At this stage you can either decline an application for the reasons set out section 21, or provide the application to, and invite comments from, the parties identified in section 17. If you do not decline the application, you will receive a further briefing following receipt of comments, to support your final decision on whether to refer the project.
3. The project is to construct and operate a large pumped hydro energy scheme at Lake Onslow in Central Otago. The enlarged Lake Onslow would serve as a battery by storing sufficient water to enable generation of up to 1,000 megawatts (MW) for approximately six months, producing around 4,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity.
4. The concept underpinning the project is not new. In 2020, the NZ Battery Project¹ was established to investigate large-scale renewable energy storage options to support security of supply during extended periods of low hydro inflows. A pumped hydro scheme at Lake Onslow was one of the options examined through that programme. The current application reflects a continuation of that earlier concept, now progressed by a private

¹ NZ Battery Project | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

consortium.

5. The applicant has indicated that, as this is a private sector proposal, the financial modelling required to secure potential investment will be undertaken by the applicant at a later stage.
6. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 290km² surrounding Lake Onslow in the Central Otago District of the Otago Region, including the Mata-au/Clutha River Valley, the Teviot Valley, and their associated river margins. A table of the titles relevant to the project area is included in Attachment 2 of the application. A map illustrating the project area (with tunnel options and landowners) is included in Attachment 2B.
7. The project involves:
 - a. creating an upper reservoir by enlarging Lake Onslow to store water for energy generation when required, with a new minimum operating level of 730 metres above sea level and a maximum operating level of 769 metres (current lake level is approximately 684 metres)
 - b. inundating approximately 7,100 hectares of land
 - c. constructing a new dam on the Te Awa Makarara/Teviot River to increase the size and storage capacity of Lake Onslow
 - d. building structures to harvest water from the Mata-au/Clutha River and return water to the river
 - e. constructing a buffer reservoir adjacent to the Mata-au/Clutha River to store water for pumping
 - f. installing intake and outlet structures within Lake Onslow to transfer water between Lake Onslow and the buffer reservoir
 - g. installing intake and outlet structures within the buffer reservoir to connect water between the buffer reservoir and the powerhouse
 - h. constructing underground tunnels (waterways) to transfer water between the buffer reservoir and the powerhouse, and between the powerhouse and Lake Onslow
 - i. constructing an underground powerhouse to connect the upper and lower water sources, generate electricity as water flows from Lake Onslow to the buffer reservoir and the Mata-au/Clutha River, and pump water back to Lake Onslow
 - j. providing supporting infrastructure for construction and operation, including roading, concrete plant, construction equipment, accommodation, transmission lines (excluding grid connection, which will be addressed separately), relocation of existing infrastructure as required, and water supply systems.
8. The applicant has identified that the project may trigger two prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Both potential prohibited activities would be under the operative Otago Regional Water Plan (August 2025), specifically Rule 12.C.0.3 and 13.6.1.1. Rule 12.C.0.3 relates to discharges of sediment from disturbed land into lakes, rivers, Regionally Significant Wetlands, or connected drains without mitigation measures, while Rule 13.6.1.1 prohibits introducing certain pest plant material into the bed or water of these water bodies.
9. The applicant has sought approval for these prohibited activities at the referral stage as a

precaution, noting that further detailed investigations prior to any substantive application will determine their relevance to the project.

10. If you agree to progress the project to our Stage 2 analysis, the next briefing will require you to consider whether to decline the referral application on the basis that it may involve prohibited activities. This is a potential reason you may decline a referral application under section 21(5) of the Act. However, we note section 21(7) of the Act explicitly states that the presence of a prohibited activity does not, in itself, prevent you from accepting a referral application.
11. The applicant seeks the following approvals under specified Acts to authorise the project:
 - a. resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)
 - b. concessions under the Conservation Act 1987
 - c. a land exchange
 - d. an approval or a dispensation that would otherwise be applied for under regulation 42 or 43 of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 in respect of a complex freshwater fisheries activity
 - e. approvals under the Reserves Act 1977
 - f. wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953
 - g. archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
12. We have undertaken initial analysis of the referral application, and this is presented along with our considerations and recommendations in Table A.
13. We have decided the application is complete and complies with section 14 of the Act, as the application complies with section 13 requirements, may be capable of satisfying the criteria in section 22 and does not appear to involve an ineligible activity. The applicable fee and levy have been paid.
14. We recommend you progress consideration of the referral application to the next stage of analysis (Stage 2) and invite written comments from the parties prescribed in section 17(1) of the Act being:
 - a. Central Otago District Council (CODC) and Otago Regional Council (ORC) as the relevant local authorities
 - b. the Minister for the Environment and the other relevant portfolio Ministers
 - c. Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation (DOC), and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as the relevant administering agencies
 - d. the Māori groups referred to in section 18(2), as listed in Appendix 3.
15. As the project area includes public conservation land, we note you must obtain a report from the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with section 19(1) of the Act.
16. We recommend that, under section 20, you seek further information from DOC in their role as the relevant administering agency, as detailed in Table A. The further information will confirm whether the reserve subject to the proposed land exchange is managed by DOC, which would verify that an assessment under section 22(4) is not required for the project.
17. Section 22(4) of the Act applies when the proposed approvals for a project include a land

exchange and the land to be exchanged by the Crown is a Crown-owned reserve managed by someone other than the DOC. In these circumstances, you must consider the impact of the proposed land exchange on the person or persons responsible for managing that Crown-owned reserve. We note the applicant considers the reserve is managed by DOC. If DOC responds that the reserve is managed by someone other than DOC, we will reassess the project against the relevant sections of the Act (including section 22(4)) in our Stage 2 analysis.

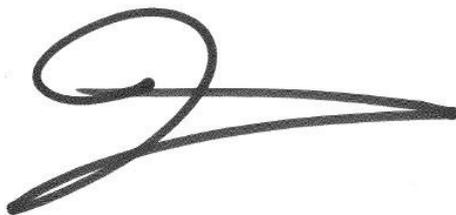
Other parties to be invited under section 17(5)

18. We recommend that you invite written comments from the following parties as additional persons under section 17(5) of the Act. We have outlined the rationale for including each party. We note most have been identified by the applicant as individuals or groups likely to be affected by the project.
19. The applicant identifies that Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is the owner of underlying interests in two pastoral leases within the project area and as such, separate approval may be required from LINZ on behalf of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. For this reason, we recommend the *Chief Executive of LINZ* be invited to comment.
20. *The Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand Limited*, as although the current application does not seek consent for delivering power to the Transpower National Grid, this is likely to follow if approvals are granted, and additional consents or approvals may be required.
21. *The Chief Executives of Contact Energy Limited, Aurora Energy, and Pioneer Energy Renewables* as the applicant has identified these infrastructure companies as the holders of existing legal interests over several sites within the project area.
22. *The Minister for the South Island* because the project represents a significant hydro energy scheme with implications for energy supply and infrastructure investment in the wider South Island.

Action sought

23. Please indicate your decisions on the recommendations in Table A.

Signature



Ilana Miller
General Manager – Investment Strategy and Operations

Table A: Stage 1 analysis

Project Name	Applicant	Project Area			
Project details	Clutha Pumped Hydro (the project)	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) c/- Cue Environmental Limited (the agent) The applicant is a registered NZ limited company and is eligible to apply for the approvals sought.	The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 290km ² surrounding Lake Onslow in the Central Otago District of the Otago Region, including the Mata-au/Clutha River Valley, the Teviot Valley, and their associated river margins. A table of the titles relevant to the project area is included in Attachment 2 of the application.		
Project description	<p>The project is to construct and operate a large pumped hydro energy scheme at Lake Onslow in Central Otago. The enlarged Lake Onslow would store sufficient water to enable generation of up to 1,000 megawatts (MW) for approximately six months, producing around 4,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity.</p> <p>The project involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> creating an upper reservoir by enlarging Lake Onslow to store water for energy generation when required, with a new minimum operating level of 730 metres above sea level and a maximum operating level of 769 metres (current lake level is approximately 684 metres) inundating approximately 7,100 hectares of land constructing a new dam on the Te Awa Makarara/Teviot River to increase the size and storage capacity of Lake Onslow building structures to harvest water from the Mata-au/Clutha River and return water to the river constructing a buffer reservoir adjacent to the Mata-au/Clutha River to store water for pumping installing intake and outlet structures within Lake Onslow to transfer water between Lake Onslow and the buffer reservoir installing intake and outlet structures within the buffer reservoir to connect water between the buffer reservoir and the powerhouse constructing underground tunnels (waterways) to transfer water between the buffer reservoir and the powerhouse, and between the powerhouse and Lake Onslow constructing an underground powerhouse to connect the upper and lower water sources, generate electricity as water flows from Lake Onslow to the buffer reservoir and the Mata-au/Clutha River, and pump water back to Lake Onslow providing supporting infrastructure for construction and operation, including roading, concrete plant, construction equipment, accommodation, transmission lines (excluding grid connection, which will be addressed separately), relocation of existing infrastructure as required, and water supply systems. <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) described in section 42(4)(a) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 described in section 42(4)(e) of the Act a land exchange described in section 42(4)(f) of the Act an approval or a dispensation that would otherwise be applied for under regulation 42 or 43 of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 in respect of a complex freshwater fisheries activity described in section 42(4)(j) of the Act approvals under the Reserves Act 1977 described in section 42(4)(e) of the Act wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 described in section 42(4)(h) of the Act archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 described in section 42(4)(i) of the Act. 				
Consultation undertaken	As required by section 11, the applicant has consulted with:				
	Relevant local authorities	Relevant iwi authorities, hapu and Treaty settlement entities	Relevant MACA groups / Ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou	Relevant administering agencies	Holder of land to be exchanged
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Otago District Council (CODC) Otago Regional Council (ORC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aukaha (on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable to the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry for the Environment Department of Conservation (DOC) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registered owners of Title 575971 being Minzion Station Limited
Section 22 assessment criteria					
The project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits [section 22(1)(a)]	<p>You may consider any of the following matters, or any other matters the Minister considers relevant.</p> <p>The applicant considers the project, being a large pumped hydro scheme, is an infrastructure project that would have significant regional and national benefits, for the reasons outlined below.</p> <p><i>Will deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure [s22(2)(a)(ii)]</i> The applicant considers the project will deliver new regionally and nationally significant infrastructure. The applicant states the project is a "Renewable Electricity Generation Activity" as defined in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation and is consequently defined as "Nationally Significant Infrastructure" in the Otago Regional Policy Statement.</p> <p><i>Will deliver significant economic benefits [s22(2)(a)(iv)]</i> The applicant considers the project will have significant national benefits under this criterion as detailed in Attachment 4 – Summary of significant benefits and Attachment 5 – Economic Assessment. The applicant states that the project would deliver significant national and regional benefits by providing one of New Zealand's largest power stations with substantial storage capacity. They note that the facility's ability to manage price differentials independently of hydrology would address the long-standing dry year risk, support greater renewable generation at lower long-run marginal costs, and contribute to a more competitive electricity market.</p> <p><i>Will support primary industries, including aquaculture [s22(2)(a)(v)]</i> The applicant considers the project will assist decarbonisation of primary processing and encourage higher value processing in many primary industries, which they note are high electricity consumers.</p>				

	<p><i>Will support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions [s22(2)(a)(vii)]</i> The applicant states that the project will contribute to New Zealand's climate change mitigation objectives by enabling greater use of renewable electricity and reducing reliance on fossil fuel generation. The project involves a large pumped hydro scheme that would provide dry year storage, supporting the transition to 100 per cent renewable electricity and helping meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Zero Carbon Act.</p> <p>The applicant considers that the project would enlarge Lake Onslow to store sufficient water to generate up to 1,000 MW for approximately six months, producing around 4,000 GWh of electricity. This storage capacity is intended to address New Zealand's dry year risk and reduce the need for coal and gas generation during periods of low hydro inflows. The applicant considers this solution essential to maintaining security of supply as electricity demand grows with electrification and as intermittent renewable sources such as wind and solar become more prominent.</p> <p><i>Will address significant environmental issues [s22(2)(a)(ix)]</i> The applicant considers that the project will address significant environmental issues because it supports climate change mitigation by reducing reliance on fossil fuel generation and enabling greater use of renewable electricity, as detailed under the criterion above.</p> <p><i>Is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies [s22(2)(a)(x)]</i> The applicant considers the project will achieve some consistency with the relevant planning documents (being the Otago Regional Policy Statement, the Otago Regional Water Plan, and the Central Otago District Plan) as detailed in Attachment 2.6 of their application.</p>		
<p>Referring the project to the fast-track approvals process [section 22(1)(b)]</p>	<p><i>Would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes [s22(1)(b)(i)]</i> The applicant states that referring the project to the fast-track approvals process would enable it to be progressed in a more timely and cost-effective manner than under normal processes. They note the project requires multiple approvals under several specified Acts. Under the RMA, the project requires numerous resource consents from both ORC and CODC and may include at least one prohibited activity that could not be consented without a private plan change. The applicant also notes that as a private company, it cannot seek a designation under the RMA.</p> <p>The applicant expects that consenting under normal processes would take more than five years, excluding potential appeals to higher courts, and would likely involve public notification, opposition, and litigation. They consider a plan change to be too time- and cost-prohibitive to pursue. Additional approvals under other legislation, such as for land exchange and concessions, would add further complexity and uncertainty. In contrast, the applicant views the fast-track approvals process as more efficient and timely, even compared to alternative RMA pathways such as call-in or direct referral to the Environment Court.</p> <p>The applicant also highlights that extended consenting timeframes would delay construction and risk misalignment with national energy needs, such as the anticipated retirement of Huntly Power Station. They state that the project is nationally significant, have engaged consultants and stakeholders, and are preparing to lodge a substantive application promptly if fast-track referral is approved. They believe the fast-track process would reduce costs, provide certainty for affected landowners, and enable the project to proceed within a timeframe that supports New Zealand's renewable energy objectives.</p> <p><i>Is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process [s22(1)(b)(ii)]</i> The applicant states that referring the project to the fast-track approvals process is unlikely to materially affect its efficient operation. They consider themselves well-prepared to progress the project promptly and professionally, supported by sufficient subject matter expertise and financial resources. The applicant notes they are debt-free and intend to fund all stages of the project through shareholder funds without external borrowing, with additional capital available if required. The applicant further indicates they have reviewed other fast-track applications and relevant judicial decisions, and are informed by previous feasibility work funded by the government. They believe they are adequately resourced and motivated to provide complete consenting information and documentation, and to undertake further consultation initiatives before lodging any substantive application.</p>		
<p>Land exchanges [sections 22(3) and 22(4)]</p>	<p><i>When assessing whether the project would have significant regional or national benefits, if the project involves a land exchange, then under section 22(4) of the Act, consider the impact of the proposed land exchange on the person or persons responsible for managing the Crown-owned reserve</i> Based on the information provided by the applicant in the referral application, the land to be exchanged is a Crown-owned reserve that is managed by DOC. Therefore, an assessment under section 22(4) is likely not applicable to the project, however we have recommended you seek further information from DOC under section 20 to confirm this. If DOC confirms the reserve is managed by someone other than DOC, we will reassess the project against the relevant sections of the Act (including section 22(4)) in our Stage 2 analysis.</p>		
<p>Minister invites comments</p>	<p><i>You must copy the application to, and invite written comments from [s17(1)]:</i></p> <p>a. Relevant local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODC • ORC <p>b. The Minister for the Environment</p> <p>c. Other relevant portfolio Ministers (and their relevance to the project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Conservation – as the project requires approvals under the Conservation Act 1987 (including under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 in respect of a complex freshwater fisheries activity), Reserves Act 1977, Wildlife Act 1953, and a land exchange • Minister for Energy – as the project involves the construction and operation of a large pumped hydro energy scheme • Minister of Climate Change – as the applicant considers the project will provide a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions • Minister for Land Information – as the applicant has identified that LINZ is the owner of underlying interests in two pastoral leases within the project area and as such, separate approval may be required from LINZ on behalf of the Commissioner of Crown Lands 	<p><i>You may copy the application to, and invite written comments from, any other person [s17(5)]:</i></p> <p>We recommend you invite comments from the following additional parties (their relevance to the project has been detailed above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive of Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) • Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand Limited • Chief Executive of Contact Energy Limited • Chief Executive of Aurora Energy • Chief Executive of Pioneer Energy Renewables • Minister for Regional Development • Minister for Economic Growth • Minister for the South Island 	<p><i>The Minister may request further information about a referral application from the applicant, the relevant local authorities, or the relevant administering agencies to be provided within the time frame specified in the request.</i></p> <p>We recommend you request further information under section 20 from DOC in their capacity as a relevant administering agency on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmation on whether the land proposed by the applicant to be subject to a land exchange (Title OT17B/406 and parcel 6699713) is a Crown-owned reserve, and if so, whether it is managed by someone other than DOC. <p>Given that the further information sought is relatively straightforward, and to align with the statutory time frame for inviting comments under section 17, we recommend specifying a time frame of 20 working days for the section 20 request.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage – as the project requires archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. <p>d. Relevant administering agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for the Environment • Department of Conservation • Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga <p>e. The Māori groups identified in Appendix 3.</p>		
Recommendations			Minister's decision
a.	<p>Note that section 25 of the Act permits you to decline the referral application without inviting comments from the relevant local authorities, the Minister for the Environment, any relevant Ministers, any relevant administering agencies and the Māori groups identified in the list provided.</p>	Noted	
b.	<p>Note that you have not yet provided the application to, nor sought any written comments on it from, the parties listed in section 17(1) but that you are required to do so if you do not decline the application under section 21 of the Act.</p>	Noted	
c.	<p>Note that section 17(5) of the Act permits you to forward an application to, and invite written comments from, any other person.</p>	Noted	
d.	<p>Note that if comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame you are required to consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.</p>	Noted	
e.	<p>Note that section 20 of the Act permits you to request further information from the applicant, relevant local authorities, or relevant administering agencies at any time before you decide whether to accept or decline an application.</p>	Noted	
f.	<p>Agree to progress the Clutha Pumped Hydro project to our Stage 2 analysis (invite written comments and request section 18 Treaty report).</p>	Yes / No	
g.	<p>Agree to provide the application to, and invite written comments from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council as the relevant local authorities under section 17(1)(a) ii. Minister for the Environment under section 17(1)(b) iii. Minister of Conservation, Minister for Energy, Minister of Climate Change, Minister for Land Information, and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage as the other relevant portfolio Ministers under section 17(1)(b) iv. Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as the relevant administering agencies under section 17(1)(c) v. The parties identified in Appendix 3 as the Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) vi. Any parties you are required to invite comments from under section 17(1)(d) and (e) who may be subsequently identified 	<p>Yes / No</p>	
h.	<p>Agree to provide the application to and invite written comments from the following additional entities/persons under section 17(5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Chief Executive of Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) ii. Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand Limited iii. Chief Executive of Contact Energy Limited iv. Chief Executive of Aurora Energy v. Chief Executive of Pioneer Energy Limited Partnership vi. Minister for the South Island vii. Minister for Regional Development viii. Minister for Economic Growth 	<p>Yes / No</p>	
i.	<p>Agree to seek further information as detailed above under section 20 from the Department of Conservation on the management status of the reserve subject to the land exchange.</p>	Yes / No	
j.	<p>Note that section 19(1) of the Act requires you to obtain and consider a report in relation to the use of public conservation land for the project from the Director-General of Conservation.</p>	Noted	
k.	<p>Note that you have agreed to delegate to the Secretary for the Environment your responsibility to send all correspondence, other than to Ministers.</p>	Noted	

I. Agree to send the email to invite written comments from Ministers.	Yes / No
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Signed:

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure

Date:

Appendix 1: Statutory framework summary

1. You are the sole decision maker for referral applications. If you accept a referral application, then the whole or part of the project will be referred to the fast-track approvals process.
2. If a Treaty settlement, the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011, the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019, a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or a joint management agreement provides for consideration of any document or procedural requirements, you must, where relevant:
 - a. give the document the same or equivalent effect through this process as it would have under any specified Act; and
 - b. comply with any applicable procedural requirements.
3. You must decline a referral application if:
 - a. you are satisfied the project does not meet the referral criteria in s22
 - b. you are satisfied the project involves an ineligible activity (s5)
 - c. you consider you do not have adequate information to inform your decision.
4. You may decline an application for any other reason, including those set out in s21(5) and even if the application meets the s22 referral criteria.
5. You can decline an application before or after inviting comments under s 17(1). However, if comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame, you must consider them, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.
6. If you do not decline a referral application at this initial stage you must copy the application to, and invite written comments from:
 - a. the relevant local authorities,
 - b. the Minister for the Environment and relevant portfolio Ministers
 - c. the relevant administering agencies
 - d. the Māori groups identified by the responsible agency
 - e. the owners of Māori land in the project area:
 - f. you may provide the application to and invite comments from any other person.
7. You can request further information from an applicant, any relevant local authority or any relevant administering agency at any time before you decide to decline or accept a referral application (see section 20 of the Act).
8. However, if further information has been sought and provided within the required time frame you must consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.

Appendix 2: Application documents for the Clutha Pumped Hydro project: (in File Exchange)

Appendix 3: List of the Māori groups referred to in section 18(2)

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)); Treaty settlement entity – Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Moeraki	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Hokonui Rūnanga	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Waihōpai Rūnaka	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Awarua	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Aukaha	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))
Te Ao Mārama Incorporated	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))