
MINUTE 7 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Invitation to comment on draft conditions and decision
Tekapo Power Scheme [FTAA- 2503-1035]

6 October 2025

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to direct the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to invite comments on:

- (a) Draft conditions of consent from specified parties under section 70 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA); and
- (b) Draft decision and conditions from specified Ministers under section 72 of the FTAA.

[2] The draft decision is attached as **Attachment 1**. The draft conditions, which will comprise Appendix A of the decision, are attached as **Attachment 2**.

[3] Since issuing the initial invitation to comment on the application, the Expert Panel has reviewed the application and prepared its draft decision and conditions. In doing so, the Panel has considered:

- (a) The application material, including the Applicant's proposed conditions;
- (b) Comments received under section 53 of the FTAA;
- (c) Information provided by the Applicant in response to two Panel requests;
- (d) Legal advice received from Vanessa Hamm, engaged by the Panel as a special advisor;
- (e) Reports received from special advisors in relation to the Application and the Applicant's proposed conditions;

- (f) Responses from Applicant and parties who provided comments in relation to special advisor's report;
- (g) Relevant planning instruments, environmental standards, the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, and other applicable legislation; and
- (h) Any other relevant information, including the provisions of the FTAA.

[4] Under section 70, the Panel directs the EPA to invite comments on the draft conditions from:

- (a) The Applicant;
- (b) All parties who provided comments under section 53; and
- (c) Canterbury Regional Council.¹

[5] The Panel requests that any suggested amendments to the draft conditions in Attachment 2 are recorded as tracked changes in the Microsoft Word version of the document.

[6] In accordance with section 72, the Panel seeks comments on the draft decision and conditions from:

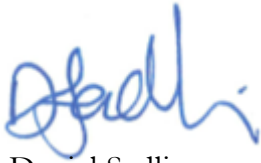
- (a) The Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; and
- (b) The Minister for Māori Development.

[7] All comments must be submitted by close of business Monday, 20 October 2025.

[8] Any response by the Applicant to comments received (as provided for under section 70(4)) must be submitted by close of business Tuesday, 28 October 2025.

¹ The local authority or other body with a statutory responsibility to enforce or monitor compliance with the conditions.

[9] Earlier responses are encouraged to assist the Panel's final decision-making.



Daniel Sadlier
Expert Panel Chair

Attachment 1 – Draft Tekapo Power Scheme Fast-track decision

Attachment 2 – Draft conditions