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9 February 2026

**Comments on the Waitaha Hydro Project in Response to RFI #5 of the Panel of the  
Convenor [FTAA-2505-1069]**

I confirm that I have read the memorandum filed by Westpower regarding the new and amended national direction instruments and their potential relevance to the Waitaha fast-track proposal currently before the panel.

I have reviewed the national direction instruments identified in Westpower's memorandum and confirm that these are the instruments applicable to the project. I have not identified any additional national direction instruments that would apply.

I concur with the conclusions reached in the Westpower memorandum, both in relation to the instruments that are excluded and the assessment of those that do apply.

The recent changes to the national direction instruments do not alter my position on the application in any respect.

Yours faithfully



**Rachel Clark**  
Principal Consents Officer  
**West Coast Regional Council**