

From: [Infrastructure Portfolio](#)
To: [Nicola Willis \(MIN\)](#); [Shane Jones \(MIN\)](#); [Penny Simmonds \(MIN\)](#); [Tama Potaka \(MIN\)](#); [Paul Goldsmith \(MIN\)](#); [James Meager \(MIN\)](#); [Simon Watts \(MIN\)](#); [Chris Penk \(MIN\)](#)
Cc: [FTAreferrals](#)
Subject: Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – FTAA-2511-1128
Date: Wednesday, 3 December 2025 8:52:13 am

To:
Minister for Economic Growth
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for the Environment
Minister of Conservation
Minister for Land Information
Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister for Energy
Minister of Climate Change
Minister for the South Island

Dear Ministers,

Hon Chris Bishop, the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister), has asked for me to write to you on his behalf.

The Minister has received an application from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process (application reference FTAA-2511-1128).

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

Invitation to comment on referral application

I write in accordance with section 17 of the Act to invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. I have provided summary details of the project below.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received by **return email** within **20 working days** of receipt of this email, **being 21 January 2026** (note that regional anniversary days are not excluded as a working day under the RMA 1991). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Any comments submitted will contribute to the Minister's decision on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you do not wish to provide comments, please let us know as soon as possible so we can proceed with processing the application without delay.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Process

The application documents are accessible through the Fast-track portal. Please note that application documents may contain commercially sensitivity information and should not be shared widely. If you haven't used the portal before, you can request access by emailing ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz. Once you are registered and have accepted the terms and conditions, you will receive a link to view the documents. Existing users will be able to see application documents via the request when logging into the portal. Should you need for your agency to provide any supplementary information, a nominated person can be provided access to the portal, access can be requested by emailing ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz.

To submit your comments on the application, you can either provide a letter or complete the attached template for written comments and return it by replying to this email, infrastructure.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this email or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz. Further information is available at <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/>.

Important Information

Please note that all comments received from Ministers invited to comment will be subject to the Official Information Act 1982. Comments received will be proactively released at the time the Minister for Infrastructure makes a referral decision, unless the Minister providing comments advises the Minister for Infrastructure's office they are to be withheld, at the time they are submitted.

If a Conflict of Interest is identified by the Minister providing comments at any stage of providing comments, please inform my office and the Cabinet Office immediately. The Cabinet Office will provide advice and, if appropriate, initiate a request to the Prime Minister to agree to a transfer of the project/portfolio invite to another Minister (a request to transfer a COI from one Minister to another can take 1-7 days).

Project summary

Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Location	Lake Onslow, Central Otago
Project description	<p>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.</p> <p>The project involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Infrastructure



Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing | Minister for Infrastructure | Minister Responsible for RMA Reform | Minister of Transport |
Associate Minister of Finance | Associate Minister for Sport & Recreation | Leader of the House | MP for Hutt South

Office: 04 817 6802 | EW 6.3
Email: c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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This email communication is confidential between the sender and the recipient. The intended recipient may not distribute it without the permission of the sender. If this email is received in error, it remains confidential and you may not copy, retain or distribute it in any manner. Please notify the sender immediately and erase all copies of the message and all attachments. Thank you.

FTAA-2511-1128

Trevor McGlinchey
Aukaha (1997) Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Trevor,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Kate Timms-Dean - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Mereana Goodman - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Pam Walker - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Richard Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer
Aurora Energy

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Richard,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. You have been identified as a party invited to comment under section 17(5) as the applicant has identified Aurora Energy as the holder of existing legal interests over several sites within the project area.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed with anyone outside of your organisation.

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in [Section 22](#) of the Act will guide the Minister's decision-making on whether to refer the project to the Fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ilana Miller', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorize the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Peter Kelly
Chief Executive Officer
Central Otago District Council

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Peter,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Central Otago District Council to provide written comments on the referral application.

Under section 17(3) of the Act and without limiting any general comments under subsection (1)(a), Central Otago District Council **must** provide comments advising on the following matters:

1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please provide written confirmation.
2. In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please provide written confirmation.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

Written comments must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ilana Miller', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Mike Fuge
Chief Executive Officer
Contact Energy Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Mike,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. You have been identified as a party invited to comment under section 17(5) as the applicant has identified Contact Energy Limited as the holder of existing legal interests over several sites within the project area.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed with anyone outside of your organisation.

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in [Section 22](#) of the Act will guide the Minister's decision-making on whether to refer the project to the Fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long, horizontal stroke that tapers to a point.

Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorize the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Penny Nelson
Department of Conservation

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Penny,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite the Department of Conservation to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Conservation Act 1987 (including the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983), Reserves Act 1977, and Wildlife Act 1953. I note the application also seeks a land exchange.

Under section 20(1) I also invite you to provide further information on the following matters:

- *Please provide 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 the Department of Conservation.*

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

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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

If you wish to provide written comments (and/or the further information response under section 20), these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

- cc Jenni Fitzgerald - s 9(2)(a)
- Graeme Silver - s 9(2)(a)
- Grace Masterton - s 9(2)(a)
- Marie Payne - s 9(2)(a)
- Amelia Wilkinson - s 9(2)(a)
- Asher Cook - s 9(2)(a)
- Gen Hewett - s 9(2)(a)
- Doc Fast-track email - s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

James Sutherland
Planner
Heritage New Zealand

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear James,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite Heritage New Zealand to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the

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PO Box 10362 | Wellington 6143, New Zealand | NZBN: 9429041908853

project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

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Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Angelica Pablo - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Group email - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Terry Nicholas
Hokonui Rūnanga

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Terry,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Matapura Ellison
Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Matapura,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top left that extends into a long, horizontal stroke ending in a sharp point to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Shane Ellison - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Gaye Searancke
Chief Executive Officer
Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Gaye,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. You have been identified as a party invited to comment under section 17(5) as the applicant identifies 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.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed with anyone outside of your organisation.

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in [Section 22](#) of the Act will guide the Minister's decision-making on whether to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top left, followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right, and a shorter horizontal line below it.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

James Palmer
The Ministry for the Environment

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear James,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite the Ministry for the Environment to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Resource Management Act 1991.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the

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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

project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Macaela Flanagan -s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Richard Saunders
Chief Executive Officer
Otago Regional Council - ORC

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Richard,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Otago Regional Council to provide written comments on the referral application.

Under section 17(3) of the Act and without limiting any general comments under subsection (1)(a), Otago Regional Council **must** provide comments advising on the following matters:

1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please provide written confirmation.
2. In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please provide written confirmation.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

Written comments must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Alexandra King - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Jenny Ross - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Martina Courtier - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
General Email - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Hannah Chamberlain - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Chloe Moffett - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Rob Hewett
Chair
Pioneer Energy Renewables

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Rob,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. You have been identified as a party invited to comment under section 17(5) as the applicant has identified Pioneer Energy Renewables as the holder of existing legal interests over several sites within the project area.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed with anyone outside of your organisation.

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in [Section 22](#) of the Act will guide the Minister's decision-making on whether to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Renee Bull
Te Ao Mārama Incorporated

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Renee,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc General email - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Meriani Pile - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Barry Bragg
Chairman
Te Rūnanga o Awarua

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Barry,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Gail Thompson – s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Michael Stevens – s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Te Runanga o Awarua – s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Trevor McGlinchey
Te Rūnanga o Moeraki

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Trevor,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorize the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Rachael Pull
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Rachael,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Lisa Mackenzie - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
TTW - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Chris Ford - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Justin Tipa - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Jo McLean - s 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Rewi Davis
Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Rewi,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Kasmira Peterson - s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Andrew Rouvi
Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Andrew,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Brett Ellison - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Louise Dennison - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Mollie Lyders - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Terry Nicholas - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

James Kilty
Chief Executive Officer
Transpower New Zealand Ltd

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear James,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. You have been identified as a party invited to comment under section 17(5) 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.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed with anyone outside of your organisation.

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in [Section 22](#) of the Act will guide the Minister's decision-making on whether to refer the project to the Fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ilana Miller', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Joanne (Jo) Mooar - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Ramu Naidoo - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

FTAA-2511-1128

Odele Stehlin
Waihōpai Rūnaka

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Odele,

Invitation to provide written comments on an application for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited (the applicant) for referral of the Clutha Pumped Hydro project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. [Section 22](#) of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires the identification of relevant Māori groups under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

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For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Waihōpai Rūnaka - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2511-1128
Project name	Clutha Pumped Hydro
Applicant name	Clutha Pumped Hydro Consortium Limited
Project summary details	<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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) resource consents under the RMA (potentially including prohibited activities)b) concessions under the Conservation Act 1987c) a land exchanged) 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 activitye) approvals under the Reserves Act 1977f) wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953g) archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.