
MINUTE 3 OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Convener's Conference Tekapo Power Scheme – Issue Identification (CRC)

[FTAA-2503-1035]

(11 June 2025)

[1] This Minute addresses the convener's conference requirements and responds to Canterbury Regional Council's memorandum of 10 June 2025.

[2] Canterbury Regional Council advises that the applicant had previously lodged an application seeking resource consent with the Regional Council. The Regional Council had sought further information from the applicant pursuant to s 92 RMA. That information was not provided to the Regional Council, and the application was subsequently withdrawn.

[3] The applicant subsequently lodged an application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. The Council advises that its technical experts have not reviewed the application. If the Council's technical experts have not reviewed this proposal, then, it appears to me, that it will not be able to reach an informed view on the proposed conditions.

[4] By way of a general comment, there is **no** provision precluding a local authority from engaging with an applicant under the Act. Indeed, it is my expectation that local authorities will engage and do so at their earliest opportunity. In this regard I note that the applicant has engaged with various groups on this project.

[5] The Council's advice creates challenges when determining timeframe for a decision (s 79) and I make directions to address the same.

Issues

[6] The Regional Council will identify the topics and issues noted in the s 92 RMA request.

Conditions

[7] Apart from the Regional Council, the applicant will identify any other person/group consulted that has yet to give full agreement to the draft conditions of consent.

Directions

[8] The Regional Council, and the District Council if it is in a same position, is to file a further memorandum by **3pm Thursday 12 June 2025** advising:

- (a) Is it the Council(s) current intention to decline the opportunity to comment (s 53(2))?
- (b) If not, is 20 working days sufficient time for the relevant experts to consider and respond (s 54)?
- (c) If it is insufficient time, should:
 - (i) a second conference be held, or
 - (ii) directions made along the line of Delmore [FTAA-2502-1015] (attached).¹
 - (iii) If Delmore type directions are made, what further information or reports does the Council anticipate filing if invited under s 67?

[9] I note the applicant's memorandum dated 11 June 2025 that it is meeting with the Regional Council tomorrow. It is my expectation, that the parties will have a careful discussion about the issues that are likely to be in issue and to identify the staging and sequencing of steps to resolve those issues. I can indicate to the applicant that 10 working days is insufficient time for a panel to evaluate complex information filed in relation to nationally significant infrastructure and release a draft decision including conditions.

Direction

[10] Responding to this Minute, the Regional Council and applicant are to file and serve a memorandum responding to this Minute by **3pm Thursday June 2025**.


Jane Borthwick

Panel convener for the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024