

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport



28 May 2026

Kitt R M Littlejohn
Expert Panel Chair
By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Fast-track Approvals Act substantive application – Follow-up comments on Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works FTAA-2510-1120

Dear Kitt

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on Meridian Energy Limited's substantive application under the *Fast-track Approvals Act 2024* (FTAA 2024) for the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works (the Project).

I write to follow-up on the comments I previously provided on 8 April 2026 under the FTAA 2024, in relation to Meridian Energy Limited's substantive application for the Project.

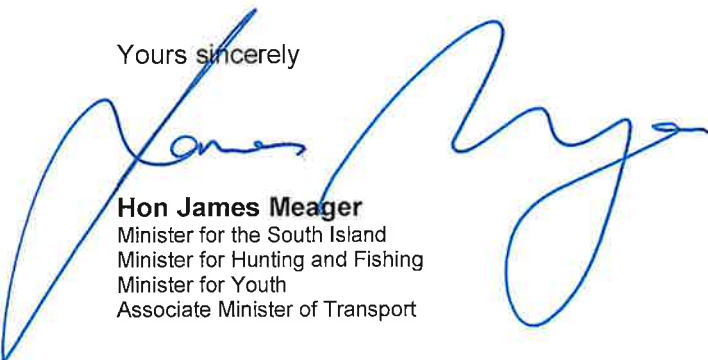
Since providing those comments, Transpower, in its role as System Operator, has raised significant concerns regarding the potential implications of unrestricted access to contingent hydro storage at Lake Pūkaki for New Zealand's security of electricity supply.

In particular, Transpower notes that while there may be economic benefits associated with easing access restrictions, those benefits should be carefully weighed against the risks identified in relation to system resilience and security of supply. These include the potential consequences arising from low inflow periods, major generation outages, and reduced contingent storage available during high-impact supply events.

Accordingly, any assessment of the claimed economic benefits should be considered in the context of the broader security of supply risks outlined by the System Operator.

I ask that these further comments be considered alongside my previous comments.

Yours sincerely


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