

Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Resources
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Energy



19 August 2025

Daniel Sadlier
Expert Panel Chair
Fast-Track

Fast-track Approvals Act substantive application – Tekapo Power Scheme, FTAA-2503-1035

Dear Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tekapo Power Scheme - Applications for Replacement Resource Consents substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA 2024).

The FTAA 2024 has been established to provide a regime that makes it easier and quicker for regionally and nationally significant infrastructure projects to gain the approvals needed for development, in support of this Government's economic growth objectives.

I have considered the substantive application for the Tekapo Power Scheme and its alignment with the priorities of my Regional Development portfolio, and I provide comments attached as Annex One.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Jones'.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Development

Annex One – Regional Development comments

Project overview

1. Genesis Energy Limited (Genesis) has applied for Fast-track approval to replace resource consents for the Tekapo Power Scheme (Tekapo PS), which expired on 30 April 2025. No changes to existing infrastructure or material changes to operating parameters are proposed.
2. Tekapo PS directly supplies electricity to the equivalent of over 120,000 homes annually and indirectly supports generation for more than 228,000 homes via water diversion to Lake Pūkaki. Supporting analysis for the application notes that replacing the scheme's output with alternative renewables would cost an estimated \$1.9-\$2.6 billion (present value), and interim reliance on thermal generation would increase emissions equivalent to 0.45-1.13 million cars annually.
3. Part of the Tekapo PS also provides critical backup supply to the Tekapo-Albury region during grid outages, avoiding local power cuts of up to 250 hours per year and an estimated \$17 million in replacement costs for a generation asset with equivalent capacity.

Comments

4. The Tekapo PS' regional economic impacts are not separately quantified or distinguished from broader national impacts, although it will maintain electricity supply to regional communities generally.
5. There may be some direct implications from the application that align with the priorities of the Government's Regional Development portfolio through Tekapo PS' provision of backup supply to the Tekapo-Albury region, which may improve the resilience of local communities.
6. The application appears to primarily have implications for New Zealand's energy system, and commentary from the Energy portfolio will be more relevant in assessing the strategic importance of the project.