

7 AUGUST 2026

MEMORANDUM

To Fast-track Referrals Team, Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport

From Vanessa Hamm

COLERIDGE REFERRAL APPLICATION - 3 YEAR DURATION TO LODGE SUBSTANTIVE APPLICATION

1. Manawa Energy Limited (**Manawa Energy**) and Contact Energy Limited (**Contact**) have made an application to refer the Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (**Project**) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**).
2. Under s 28 of the FTAA, a notice to accept the referral application and refer the Project must, amongst other things, specify the deadline for lodging the substantive application, which is a default date of 2 years after the notice to refer the project if no deadline is set.
3. Manawa Energy and Contact have requested that the referral decision provide a **3 year timeframe** for Manawa Energy and / or Contact to lodge the substantive application. This Memorandum outlines the reasons for that request in more detail:
 - (a) The Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Scheme (**HEPS**) is a large and complex existing renewable electricity generation scheme involving multiple catchments, river diversions, operational structures and receiving environments.
 - (b) The replacement consent application will be supported by a comprehensive programme of technical investigations, including hydrology assessments (Tonkin & Taylor), sedimentation and river geomorphology assessments (Ryder Consulting, Waterways Consulting and Earth Sciences New Zealand), coastal geomorphology assessments (Dr Martin Single), groundwater flow assessments (Pattle Delamore Partners), aquatic ecology and fish passage assessments (Earth Sciences New Zealand and Ryder Consulting), and terrestrial ecology and avifauna assessments (Blue Green Ecology).
 - (c) Given the scale and complexity of these investigations, including the need for seasonal data collection and analysis where relevant, a two year timeframe may be insufficient. A three year period is therefore sought to enable the necessary technical assessments to be completed to an appropriate standard and to ensure that the substantive application is supported by robust and comprehensive evidence.
 - (d) Additionally, the Project will require integration of technical evidence across disciplines, engagement with mana whenua and stakeholders, and preparation of a comprehensive substantive application.