Tekapo Power Scheme

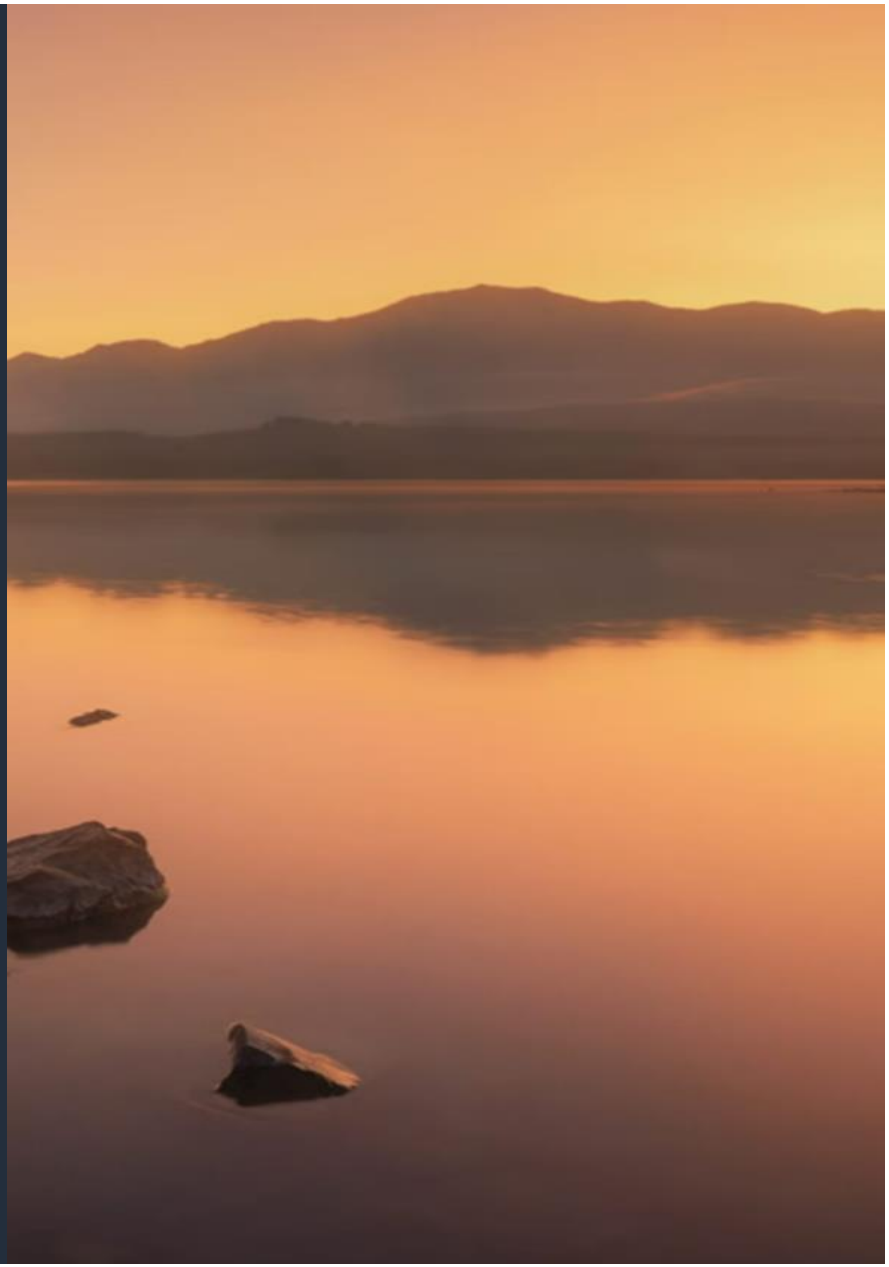
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – project overview conference

July 2025

BUDDLE FINDLAY

Project overview conference

- The scheme's substantial benefits
- Overview of the scheme
- Overview of the application
- Content and structure of the proposed conditions
- Legal tests under the Fast-track Approvals Act
- Remaining issues in contention
- Site visit




“The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.”
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, s 3

The scheme provides significant national and regional benefits

Crucial for security of supply

Lakes Takapō and Pūkaki provide up to 65% of the country's hydro average storage volume.

The Tekapo Albury region (an area that is periodically cut-off from the rest of the grid) is reliant on the Tekapo A Power Station.

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Increased thermal generation (required without the scheme) would significantly raise New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions, by the equivalent of 450,000 to 1.13 million cars per year while it was operating.

A significant source of renewable electricity

More than 120,000 homes annually through Tekapo A and B directly.

More than 228,000 homes directly and indirectly (through diverting water into Lake Pūkaki for use through the Ōhau power stations).

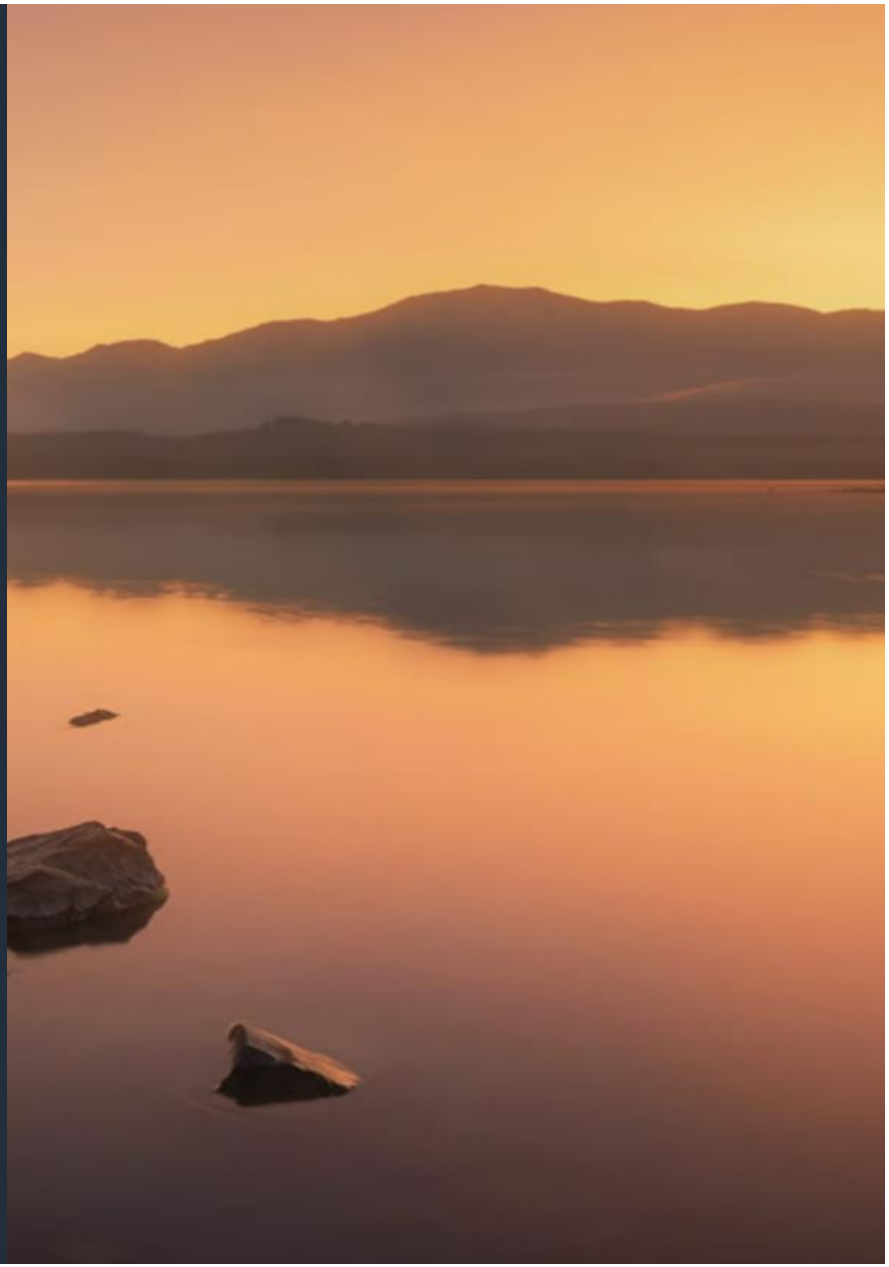
Reduced costs to society

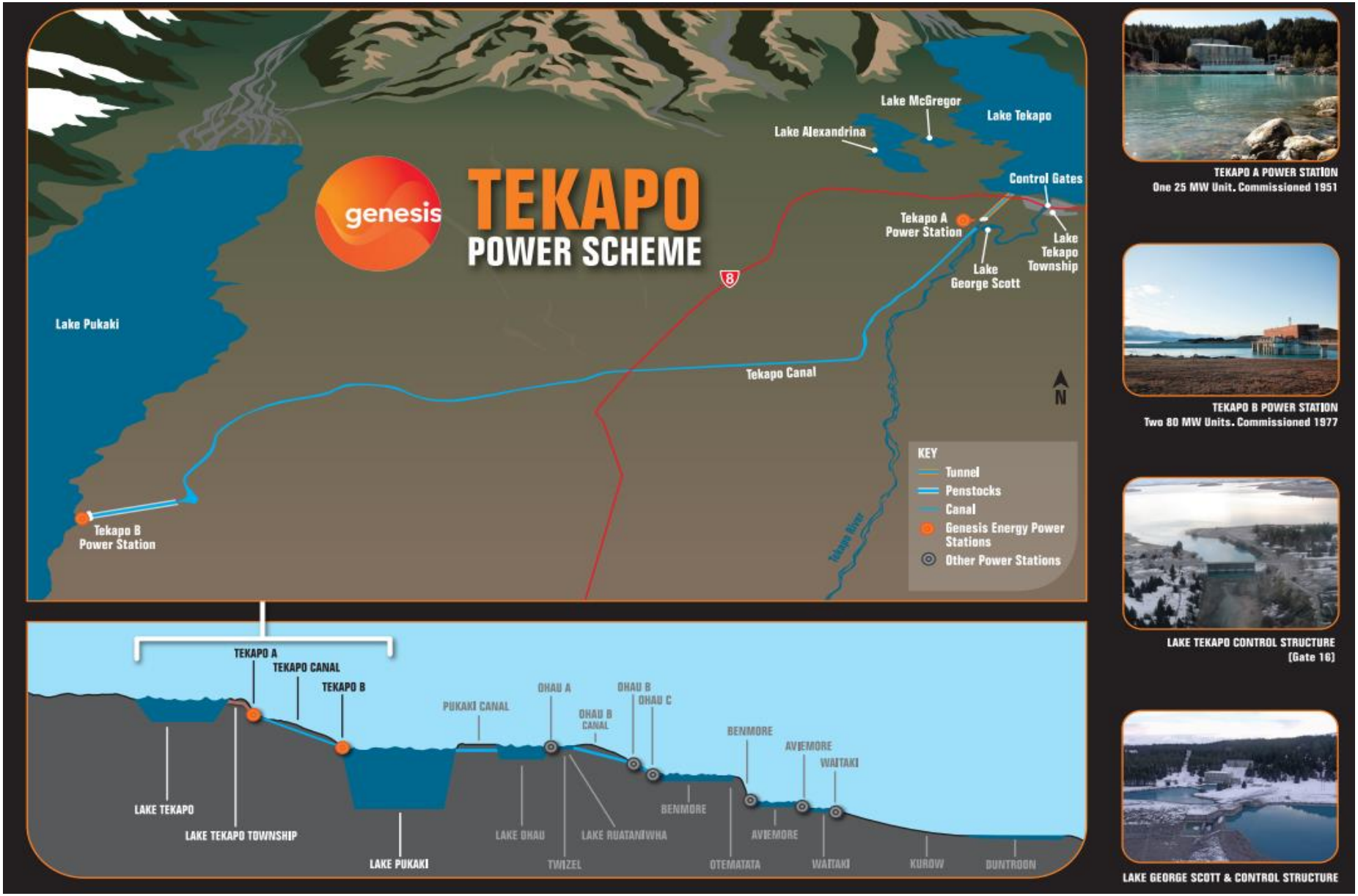
Replacing the Scheme's direct and indirect output with alternative renewable sources would impose additional costs on society of around $170 to $220 million per year.

Thermal generation costs in the interim of $250 to $370 million per year.

Overview of Scheme

- Water is taken from Lake Takapō and used for generation of electricity at the Tekapo A and B power stations.
- The water passing through the Tekapo A and B stations is then used for generation at Meridian's Ōhau A, B and C stations (which would otherwise not receive water from Lake Takapō).





TEKAPO A POWER STATION
One 25 MW Unit. Commissioned 1951

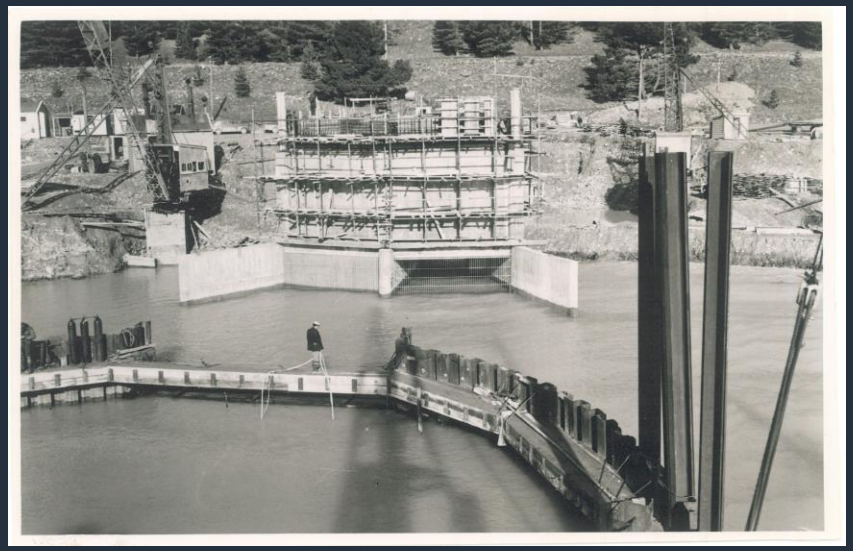
TEKAPO B POWER STATION
Two 80 MW Units. Commissioned 1977

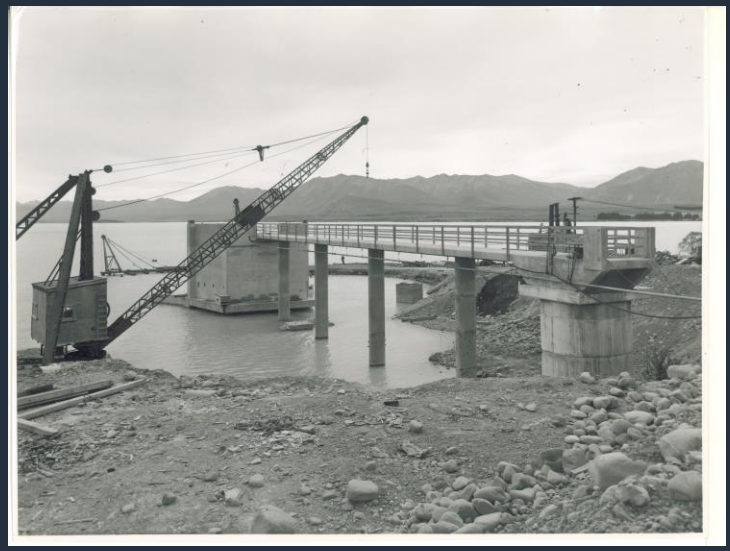
LAKE TEKAPO CONTROL STRUCTURE
(Gate 16)

LAKE GEORGE SCOTT & CONTROL STRUCTURE

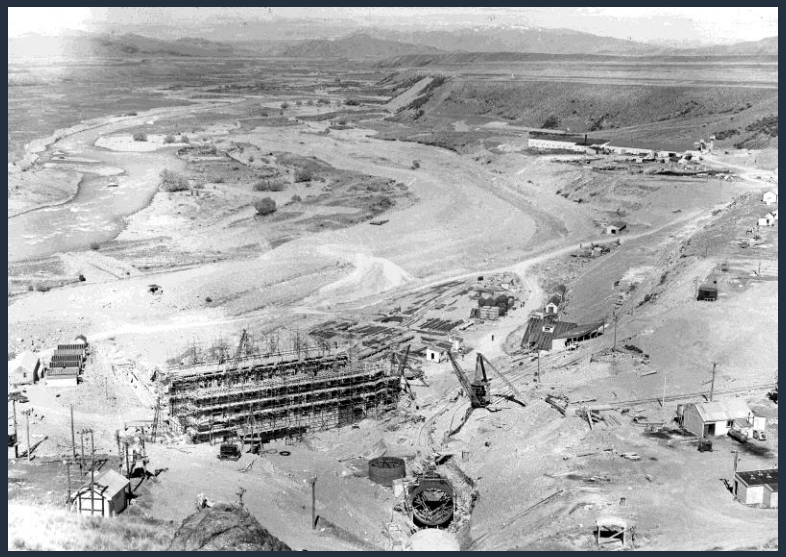
‘Top’ section of the scheme

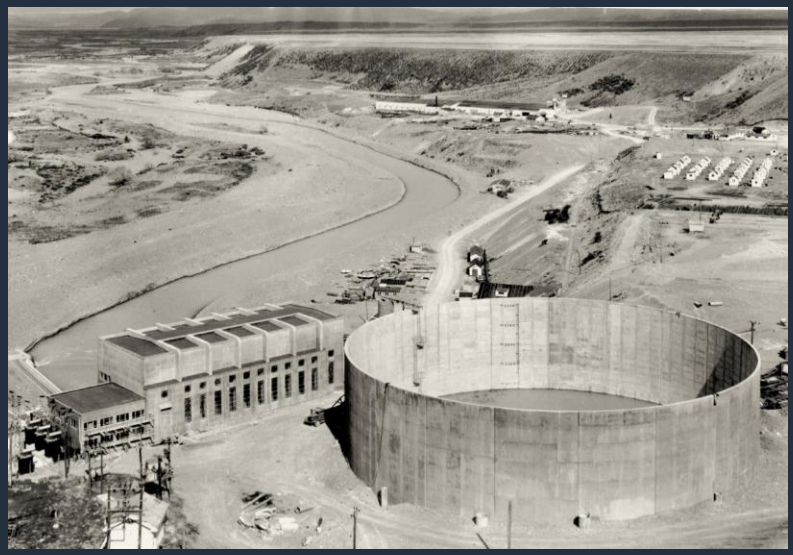
Tekapo Intake Structure





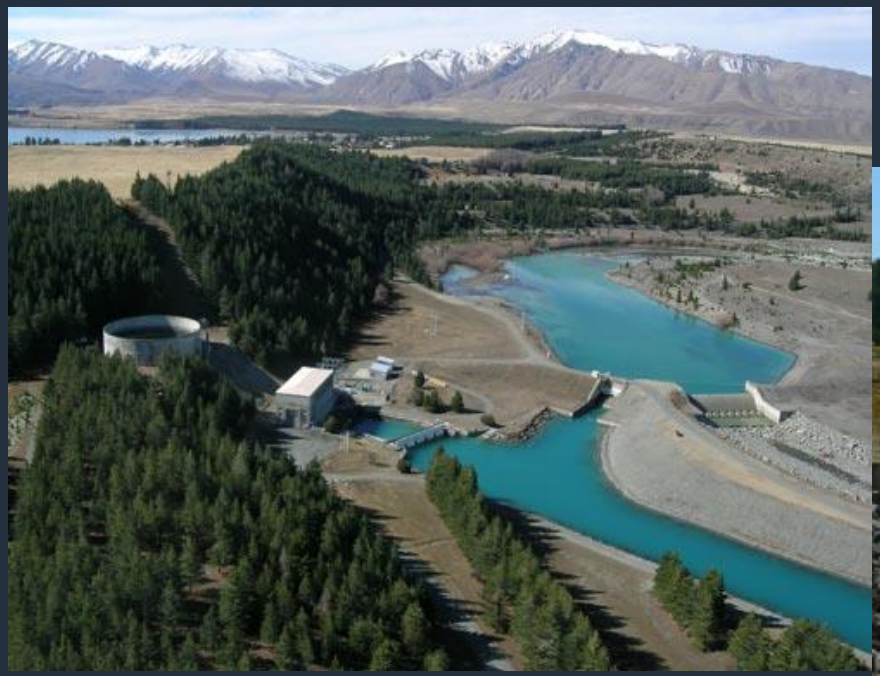
Tekapo A Power Station

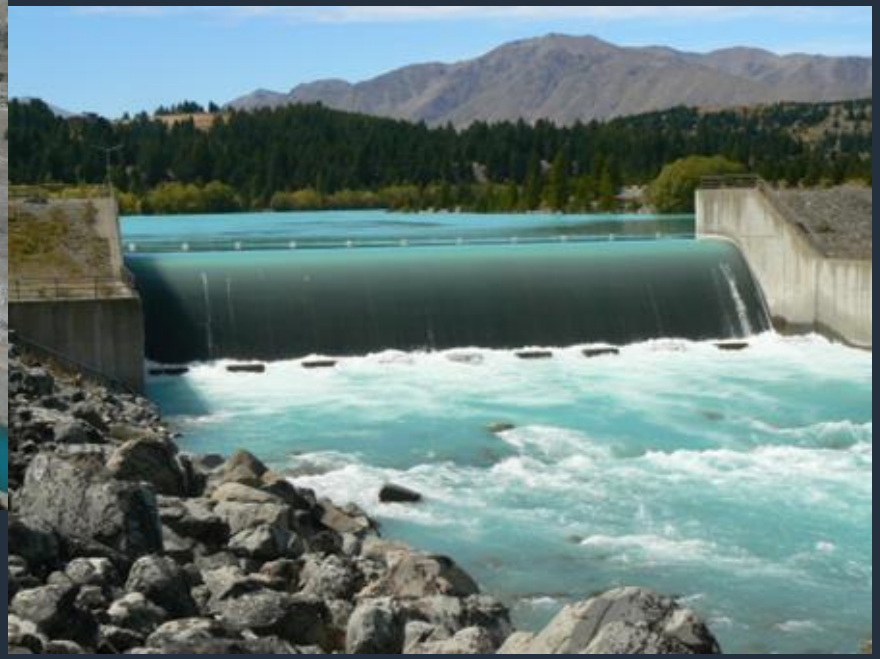




Lake Takapō Control Structure (Gate 16)

Lake George Scott (including the control weir and Gate 17)



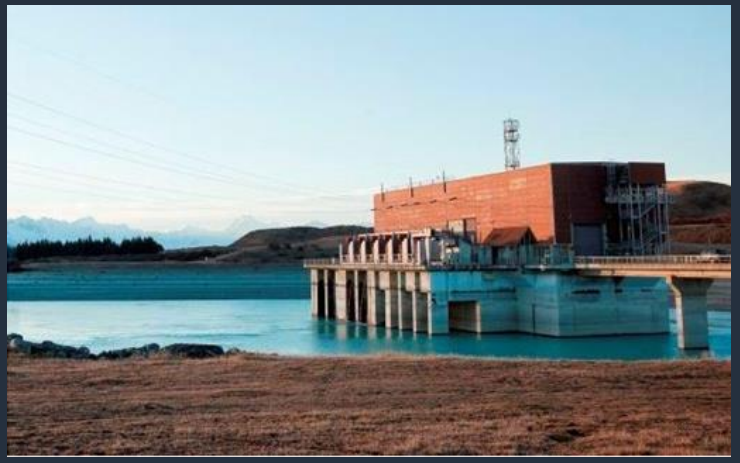


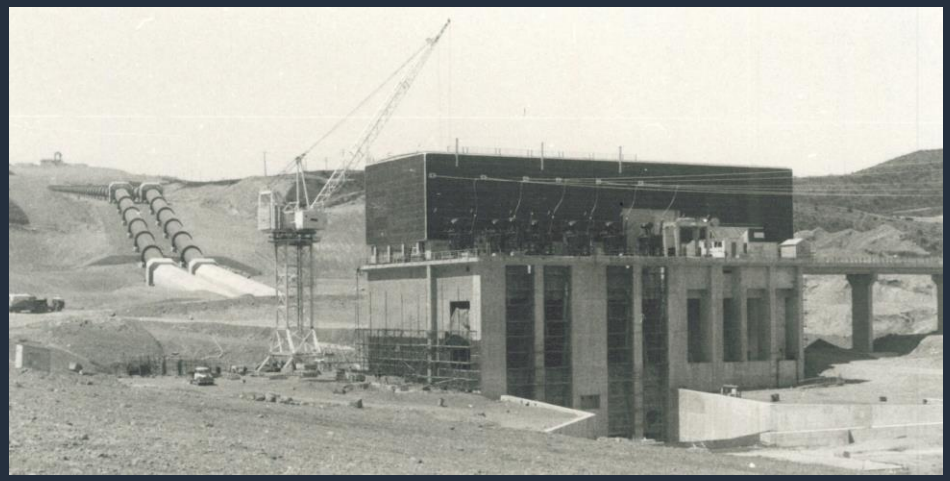
Tekapo Canal Control Structure (Gate 17)

‘Bottom’ section of the scheme

Tekapo Canal

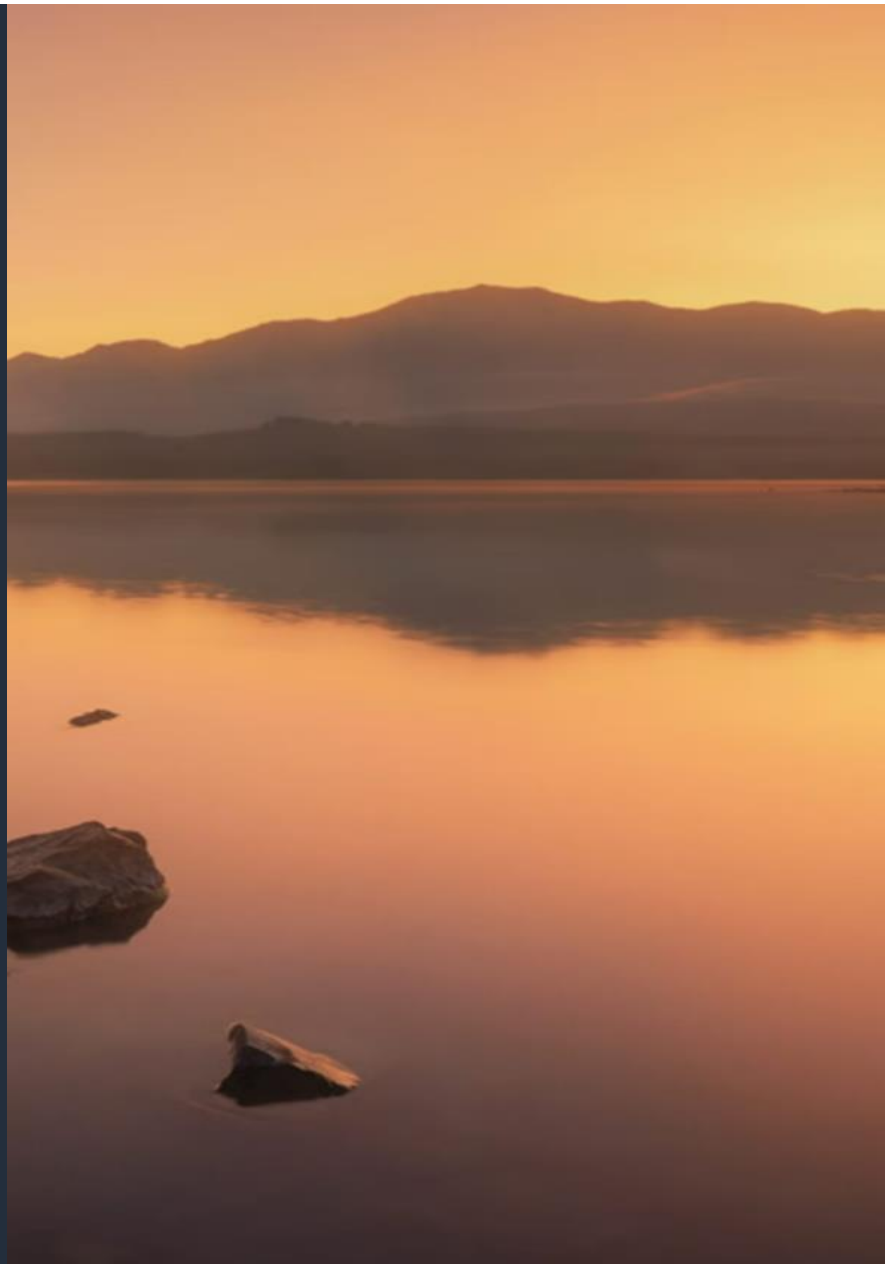
Tekapo B Power Station





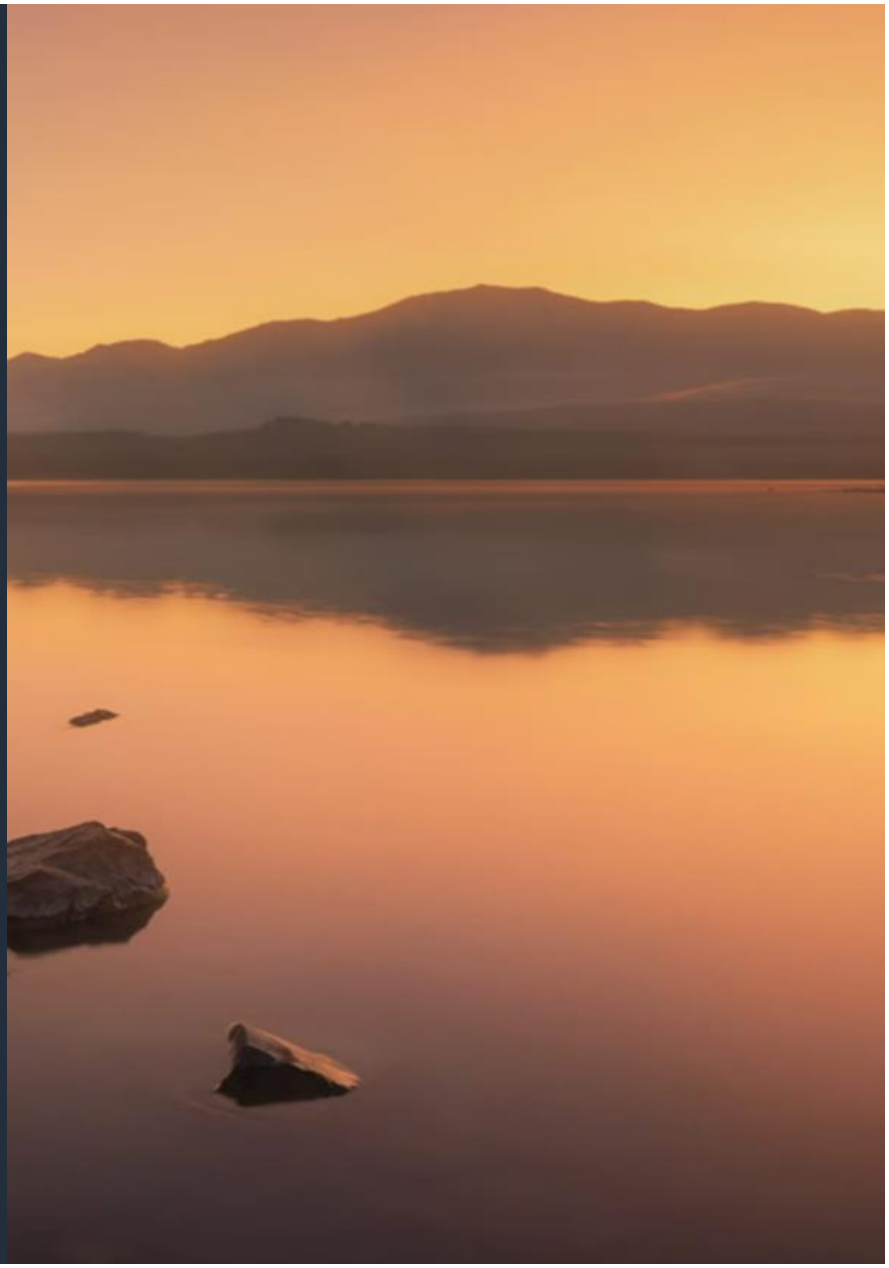
Overview of the application

- The resource consents required
- The support for the scheme



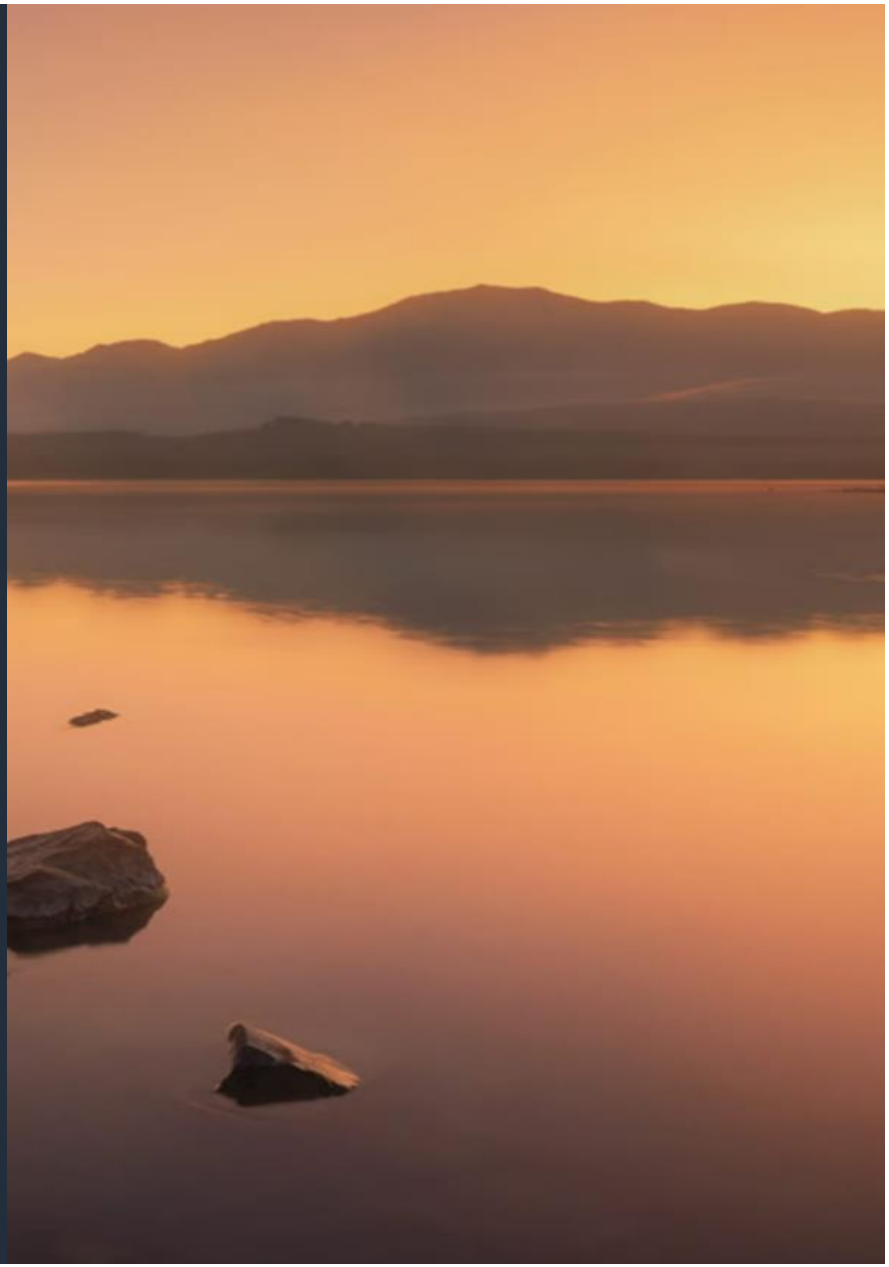
Conditions

- Development of the conditions before lodgement
- Content and structure of the proposed conditions
- Changes to the conditions since lodgement



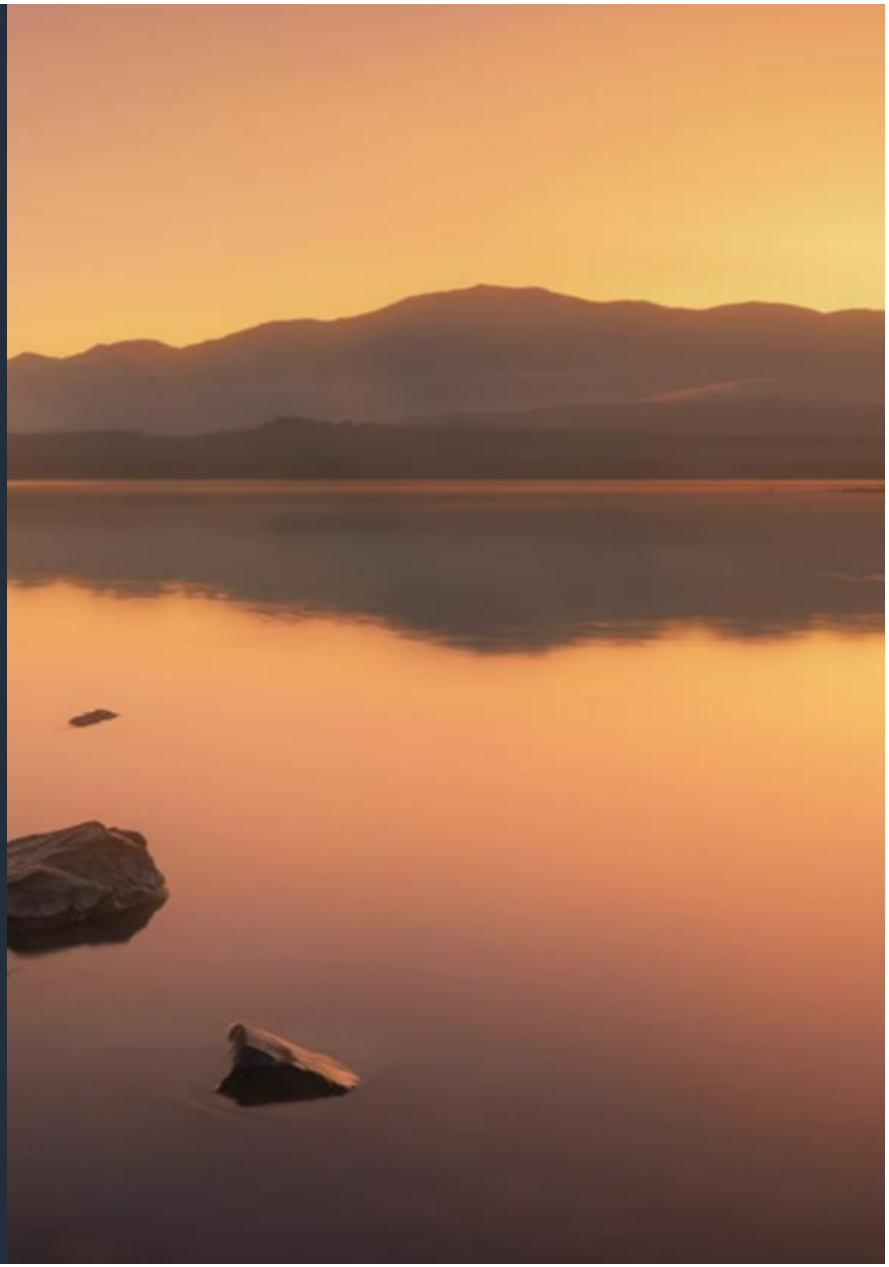
Legal tests under the Fast-track Approvals Act

- This is a new process, it is not the Resource Management Act process or the process under any other Act
- Decision-making requirements
- Invitation for comments



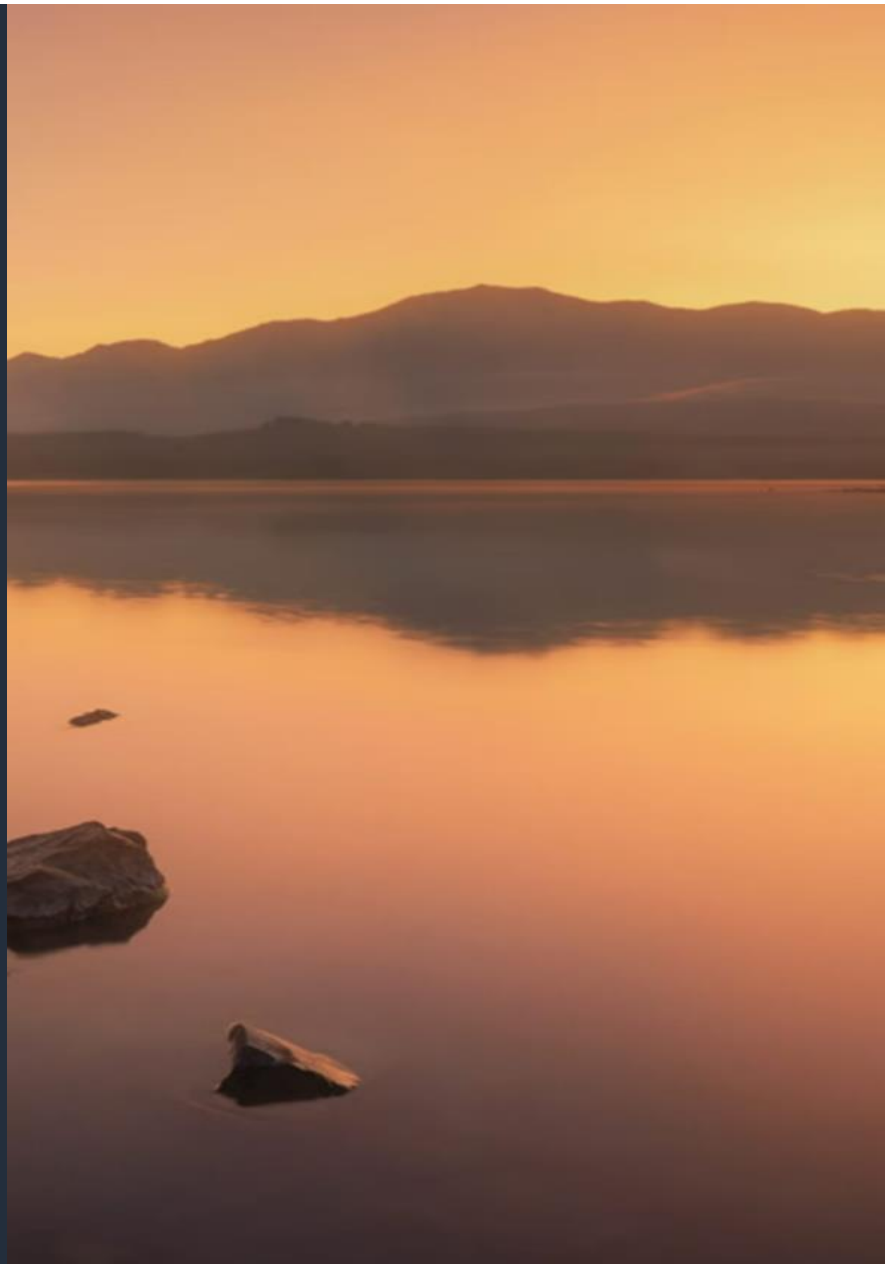
Remaining issues in contention

- Discrete matters of disagreement in respect of the following topics:
  - Hydrology and groundwater
  - Avifauna
  - Lake water quality, aquatic ecology and native fish
  - Condition wording
- Can be dealt with through the comments on the application and on the draft conditions of the panel



Site visit ~ 7 hours

- Tekapo A Power Station
- Gate 16 (Lake Takapō dam structure)
- Tekapo Whitewater Trust recreational slalom course
- Lake Takapō Intake structure and Lake Takapō shoreline
- Gate 17, Lake George Scott and spill weir
- Fork Stream culvert and Takapō River
- Patersons Ponds and Takapō River
- Mount Cook Alpine Salmon Farm, Tekapo B Headpond, Pūkaki Irrigation Offtake structure
- Tekapo B Power Station
- Ōhau A, B and C Power Stations



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