

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation
Minister for Māori Crown Relations
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17 December 2025
Expert Panel
By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Mauriora

Invitation to comment on the Waitaha Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

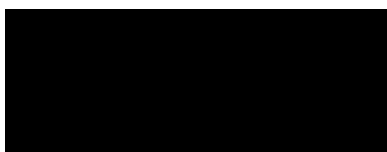
Thank you for the invitation to comment on the Waitaha Hydro project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

I support the application on the basis:

- a) the project has the ability for Papatipu Rūnanga to become project partners and hold a financial interest in the development;
- b) much needed electricity will be generated to support the national grid;
- c) the use of renewable energy is consistent with the Government's climate goals.

I also encourage:

- a) Reasonable consideration being given to the comments provided by relevant Māori groups, as identified in the Expert Panel's Minute 3;
- b) the Expert Panel to give due regard to the association of Ngāi Tahu with certain taonga species that are found within the project area;
- c) the Applicant to engage with Ngāi Tahu on how to best manage the construction and maintenance activities of pounamu, particularly alluvial pounamu; and
- d) the Expert Panel continue to give due regard to the provisions within the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe between Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the West Coast Regional Council.



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Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori me Te Minita mō Te Arawhiti