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### MINUTE 3 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Recording site visit, and addressing memorandum from Forest and Bird  
Tekapo Power Scheme [FTAA- 2503-1035]

4 August 2025

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[1] This minute:

- (a) Records the site visit undertaken by the Expert Panel on Wednesday 30 July 2025; and
- (b) Addresses a memorandum received by Forest and Bird on 30 July 2025.

#### Site visit

[2] The Panel undertook a site visit on Wednesday 30 July 2025. It was accompanied by Daya Thomson (the Application Lead for this application, from the Environmental Protection Authority), Mark Cain (Site Manager, Genesis Energy Limited) and David Higgins (Upoko, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki).

[3] The Panel toured the site by vehicle and stopped to inspect the following key locations associated with the Project:

- (a) Takapō A Power Station
- (b) Lake Takapō Intake structure and Lake Takapō shoreline
- (c) Gate 16 (Lake Takapō dam structure)
- (d) Takapō Whitewater Trust recreational slalom course
- (e) Gate 17, Lake George Scott and spill weir
- (f) Fork Stream culvert and Takapō River
- (g) Patersons Ponds and Takapō River

- (h) Mount Cook Alpine Salmon Farm
- (i) Takapō B Headpond
- (j) Pukaki Irrigation Offtake structure
- (k) Takapō B Power Station
- (l) Ohau A and B Power Stations (not part of application site – drive by to show additional generation Takapō water provides)

[4] The Panel is grateful to the applicant (particularly Mr Cain) for facilitating the site visit, and to Mr Higgins for his attendance.

### **Forest and Bird memorandum**

[5] On 30 July 2025, the EPA received a memorandum of counsel from Forest and Bird, including three attachments. The memorandum and attachments will be made available on the website shortly.

[6] Forest and Bird seeks directions that:

- (a) The applicant and Canterbury Regional Council clarify their “respective positions ... on environmental flows in the Takapō River”.
- (b) Expert conferencing occurs “in relation to freshwater matters, specifically appropriate environmental flows in the Takapō River”.

[7] The Panel has considered Forest and Bird’s memorandum of counsel, and declines to make the directions sought at this stage.

[8] Section 53 of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 requires the Panel to invite comments from certain identified persons, and provides the Panel with a discretion to invite comments from other persons it considers appropriate. The Panel has exercised its discretion to invite Forest and Bird to comment on the application. The application is available on the Fast Track website. The Panel does not consider further clarification of either the applicant’s or Canterbury Regional Council’s

“positions”, whether in respect of environmental flows or otherwise, to be needed in order for Forest and Bird to provide its comments.

[9] Regarding expert conferencing, the Panel considers it appropriate to receive all comments in relation to the application before determining whether and what further procedural directions to make. Such directions may or may not include expert conferencing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Sadlier', is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel Sadlier  
Expert Panel Chair