

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport



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JMITC-6

Daya Thomson
Application Lead
Fast-track Team

By email: Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Daya

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2025 and for the opportunity to comment on Genesis Energy's application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the FTAA 2024) for the Tekapo Power Scheme (Tekapo PS).

I am providing these comments in my capacity as Minister for the South Island, under section 53(2)(j) of the Act. In reviewing the application, I have considered whether the project will:

- contribute to economic growth in the South Island, regionally, and thereby nationally
- enable key infrastructure to meet regional needs.

The Tekapo PS is a nationally significant hydroelectric asset that contributes 190 MW of renewable electricity to the national grid and supports additional generation via water diversion to Lake Pūkaki. This output is sufficient to supply approximately 228,000 households annually.

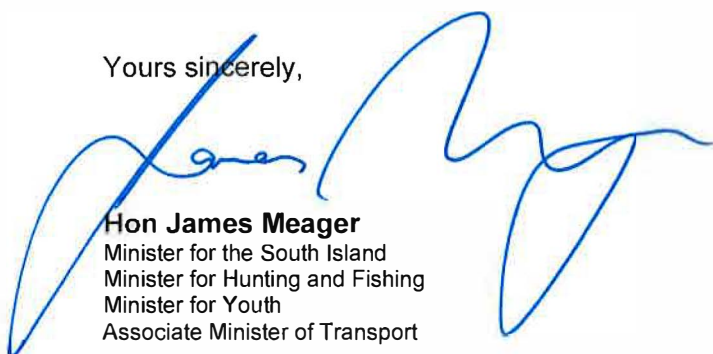
I consider the continued operation of the Tekapo PS to be of clear regional benefit. Supporting analysis indicates that replacing its renewable generation would cost between \$1.90 and \$2.60 billion (present value) and result in increased emissions equivalent to 450,000 to 1.13 million cars annually. In addition, Tekapo A provides essential backup supply to the Tekapo-Albury region during grid outages, helping avoid up to 250 hours of power cuts each year and an estimated \$17.00 million in replacement costs.

While the application does not propose new infrastructure or employment, the Tekapo PS supports ongoing operational roles and underpins regional energy resilience. It also enables access to infrastructure that supports tourism and recreation in the Mackenzie District.

The application primarily relates to New Zealand's energy system, and commentary from the Energy portfolio will be more relevant in assessing its national strategic importance.

I support the Panel's continued consideration of this application.

Yours sincerely,



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