

Hon Chris Penk

Minister for Building and Construction
Minister for Land Information
Minister for Small Business and Manufacturing
Minister for Veterans
Associate Minister of Defence
Associate Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery
Associate Minister of Immigration



Daya Thomson
Application Lead
Fast-track Team
Environmental Protection Authority
Private Bag 63002
Waterloo Quay
Wellington 6140

By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Daya Thomson

Thank you for your email, received on Monday 9 March 2026, regarding an invitation to comment on a Fast-track referral application for the Lake Pūkaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA-2510-1120).

As noted in the application, part of the proposed project site will be on areas of Crown land (that is, the lakebed and surrounding land parcels) administered by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Meridian Energy Limited has a Lake Pūkaki operating easement under section 60 of the Land Act 1948.

The Land Act 1948 also governs applications for works on Crown land. The approvals under this Act sit outside of the fast-track process, and so any project works or installation of assets on the Crown land could require a separate application to the Commissioner of Crown Lands in LINZ.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Penk'.

Hon Chris Penk
Minister for Land Information

31 MAR 2026