

YOUR COMMENT ON THE COLERIDGE HYDROELECTRIC POWER SCHEME RECONSENTING PROJECT

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury)		
First name	Susannah		
Last name	Black		
Postal address	200 Tuam Street, Christchurch Central, Christchurch		
Home phone / Mobile phone	-	Work phone	s 9(2)(a)
Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(a)		

2.			
Yes	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	☐	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

Thank you for your comments

30 September 2026

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations
Fast-track Applications
Environmental Protection Authority
info@fasttrack.govt.nz



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Kia ora Stephanie,

Thank you for your letter received 9 September 2026 regarding the Coleridge Hydroelectric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (the project) from Manawa Energy Limited and Contact Energy Limited (the Applicant).

Please find attached the response from Canterbury Regional Council (CRC) to the specific questions raised in the above letter. Also included within the response are general comments on the proposal which may assist the Minister in making their determination under section 21 and 22 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).

Overall, CRC supports the referral of this proposal because it does meet the criteria in section 22 outlined below in the general section.

CRC also supports the Applicant's request for a three-year period to lodge the substantive application. The referral application contains high level information on the environmental effects of the scheme, and the additional time will allow the monitoring and fieldwork needed to inform the technical assessments. Should the project be referred, CRC expects the substantive application to include comprehensive assessments of the matters identified in Appendix 1 to this letter, particularly effects on groundwater, hydrology, water quality, aquatic ecology (including fish passage). CRC is willing to continue working with the Applicant on these matters through pre-application engagement outside the formal fast-track process.

CRC trusts that these comments will assist the Minister in determining whether to accept the referral application and proceed with referring the project. Should any further information be required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Black', written over a horizontal line.

Susannah Black
Principal Consents Planner

CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS UNDER S17 FTAA – COLERIDGE HYDROELECTRIC POWER SCHEME RECONSENTING PROJECT

Specific questions from the EPA

Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please provide written confirmation.

CRC does not hold a record of any competing applications (as defined in the FTAA) for the project area. CRC also notes that Rules 5.125C and 5.125D of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (CLWRP) specifically provide for the re consenting of the Coleridge Hydroelectric Power Scheme (Coleridge HEPS).

In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there are any existing resource consents issued where sections 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please provide written confirmation.

CRC confirms that there are no existing resource consents to which section 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the RMA would apply. The existing resource consents for the Coleridge HEPS are held by Manawa Energy Limited, one of the applicants, and the project seeks replacement consents for the same activities.

Whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act)

CRC does not consider that the project involves an ineligible activity as defined in section 5 of the FTAA. This view is based on the relatively high-level information provided at the referral stage and may need to be revisited if further information provided with the substantive application indicates otherwise.

Whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21(5) of Act).

CRC has assessed the application against the circumstances in which the Minister must or may decline a referral application under section 21(3) to (5) of the FTAA, and against the criteria for accepting a referral application under section 22, as set out in the tables below. In summary, CRC has not identified any matters that would require or support declining the referral under section 21(3) to (5).

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM CRC TO ASSIST WITH CONSIDERATION AGAINST S21 AND S22 FTAA

Criteria under Section 21	CRC Comment
3) The Minister must decline a referral application if— (a) the application may not be accepted under subsection (1) ¹ ; or	Section 21(1) relates to staged projects and projects proposed as alternatives. The Applicant has confirmed that the project will not proceed in stages and that no part of it is proposed as an alternative project (sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the application). CRC therefore does not consider this provision to be relevant, noting that the project involves the consenting of existing infrastructure.
(b) the Minister is satisfied that the project involves an ineligible activity; or	CRC does not consider that the project involves an ineligible activity as defined in section 5 of the FTAA.
(c) the Minister considers that they do not have adequate information to inform the decision under this section.	While further information will be required to support a substantive decision, CRC considers that sufficient information has been provided to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application.
(4) The Minister may decline a referral application for any other reason, whether or not the project meets the criteria in section 22 .	This is a matter for the Minister to determine.
(5) Reasons to decline a referral application under subsection (4) include, without limitation, the following: (a) the project would be inconsistent with any of the following: (i) a Treaty settlement; (ii) the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 ; (iii) the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 ; (iv) a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe; (v) a joint management agreement:	The project area is within the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu, and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 includes a statutory acknowledgement over Whakamātau (Lake Coleridge), as identified in Attachment Five of the application. CRC is not aware of any reason why the project would be inconsistent with that settlement, provided the associated cultural values are appropriately assessed through the Cultural Impact Assessments the Applicant intends to undertake to support their substantive application. CRC is not aware of any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreement relevant to the project, and the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 and the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 do not apply to the project area. CRC considers that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the relevant Papatipu Rūnanga are best placed to advise the Minister on these matters.
(b) it would be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts:	While there is an existing pathway under the RMA under Rule 5.124C of the CLWRP providing for key activities (on a like for like basis) associated with the scheme as controlled activities; CRC considers that the FTAA is an appropriate pathway for the project, given the scale and complexity of the scheme and that approvals are sought under several Acts (the RMA, the Conservation Act 1987, the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983).

¹S21(1) refers to staged and alternative projects [Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 | New Zealand Legislation](#)

(c) the project may have significant adverse effects on the environment:	Due to the high level information provided at the referral stage, CRC is not able to determine whether the project may have significant adverse effects on the environment. The application states that the scheme is proposed to operate on similar terms to the current consents and that adverse effects are expected to be largely the same as those that currently occur. The existing environment and the extent to which effects from existing hydro-electricity power generation schemes form part of the environment has been recently tested by Genesis Energy Ltd through the FTAA and Meridian Energy Ltd through the RMA and Environment Court. CRC anticipates this will be further explored by this proposal. CRC notes that the scheme has operated for over a century, and that Policy H of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (NPSREG) requires decision-makers to recognise existing renewable electricity generation assets as part of the existing environment when considering their consenting. CRC's technical advice (Appendix 1 to this letter) identifies several matters that will require further assessment, particularly effects on groundwater, hydrology, water quality and aquatic ecology (including fish passage). This view is preliminary and would need to be confirmed through a full assessment of effects at the substantive application stage. CRC anticipates this would be discussed with the applicant through pre-application work.
(d) the applicant (or, if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, any of those persons) has a poor compliance history under a specified Act that relates to any of the proposed approvals:	Compliance with the existing consents associated with this proposal is monitored periodically by CRC, with the most recent compliance assessment completed in 2023. With 4 occurrences of low risk non-compliance relating to data errors, annual erosion control report not supplied on time, and works within the bed of the Harper River extending outside the works area. The Applicant has also disclosed its national compliance history in Attachment Five of the application, including three enforcement actions against Contact Energy, and one prosecution and four abatement/infringement notices against Manawa Energy (formerly Trustpower), each of which the Applicant states has been addressed. CRC notes that this determination is for the Minister to make on whether the Applicant has a poor compliance history.
(e) the project area includes land that the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations considers necessary for Treaty settlement purposes:	To CRC's knowledge, the project area does not include land that the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations considers necessary for Treaty settlement purposes. Lake Coleridge is within the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu, whose historical claims were settled through the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. CRC notes other parties invited to comment would be best placed to advise the Minister on such matters.
(f) the project includes an activity that is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act 1991²:	The Applicant has confirmed that the project does not include any prohibited activities under the RMA (section 3.4.2 of the application). With the information provided, CRC agrees.
(g) a substantive application for the project would have 1	CRC considers it unlikely, given the location and nature of the project, that a substantive application would have one or more competing applications.

²S21(7) states that a prohibited activity does not necessarily prevent referral [Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 | New Zealand Legislation](#)

or more competing applications:	As noted above, CRC does not hold a record of any competing applications.
(h) in relation to any proposed approval of the kind described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent), there are 1 or more existing resource consents of the kind referred to in section 30(3)(a) .	CRC confirms that there are no existing resource consents of the kind referred to in section 30(3)(a) of the FTAA in relation to the project (refer to the response to the second question above).

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING REFERRAL APPLICATION – SECTION 22(1-2)

Criteria under Section 22	CRC Comment
(1) The criteria for accepting a referral application are that— (a) the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits; and	CRC agrees that the project is an infrastructure project that would have significant regional and national benefits, consistent with the national significance of renewable electricity generation recognised in the NPS-REG. While the scheme already exists, reconsenting would allow it to continue providing renewable electricity generation (approximately 270 GWh per year), storage, and the release of stored water for downstream irrigation. CRC has not commissioned an independent review of the Applicant's economic information and relies on the Applicant's assessment for the purposes of this response.
(b) referring the project to the fast-track approvals process— (i) would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and (ii) is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process	In relation to section 22(1)(b)(i), CRC considers it likely that the project would be processed in a more timely and cost effective way under the FTAA than under the RMA, particularly as approvals are sought under several Acts. CRC has not verified the time and cost savings claimed by the Applicant in Attachment Five. In relation to section 22(1)(b)(ii), the Applicant is seeking a three-year period for lodging the substantive application, rather than the default two years under section 28(3)(d)(ii). CRC supports this request and considers that the project is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process. CRC notes that projects listed in Schedule 2 of the FTAA are not subject to a lodgement deadline of this kind.
(1A) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), the Minister must consider a relevant Government policy statement.	CRC is not aware of any relevant Government policy statement. Therefore, this subsection is not applicable.
(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), the Minister may consider— (a) whether the project— (i) has been identified as a priority project in a central government, local government, or sector plan or strategy (for example, in a general policy statement or	The Applicant refers to Electrify NZ ³ , a National Party Policy document from 2023 on page 18 (question 2.6.2.3) of their referral application form, which notes that the reconsenting of existing generation assets has become unnecessarily difficult. The Applicant however acknowledges that the Coleridge HEPS itself is not specifically identified in that document. CRC is not aware of the project being identified as a priority project in any central government, local government or plan or strategy, or in a central government infrastructure priority list. CRC also notes that the project is not a listed project in Schedule 2 of the FTAA.

³[Electrify NZ.pdf](#)

spatial strategy), or a central government infrastructure priority list:	
(ii) will deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure:	The project will not deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure, but it will enable the continued functioning of existing regionally significant infrastructure. The scheme was commissioned in 1914 and has operated for over a century.
(iii) will increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, or contribute to a well-functioning urban environment (within the meaning of policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020):	The project does not relate to housing supply, so this provision is not directly applicable. CRC notes that the scheme has an installed capacity of 39.5 MW and generates approximately 270 GWh per year, which the Applicant estimates is sufficient to power approximately 33,700 homes in the Canterbury Region.
(iv) will deliver significant economic benefits:	The Applicant states that the project will continue to deliver significant economic benefits, including avoiding approximately \$359.8 million in capital costs for replacement generation and contributing over \$10 million annually to the local economy (Attachment Five). CRC has not commissioned an independent review of this assessment and relies on the Applicant's assessment. CRC notes that the Applicant has engaged the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research to prepare an economic assessment for the substantive application.
(v) will support primary industries, including aquaculture:	The project indirectly supports primary industries (farming operations along the Rakaia River) through the release of stored water in accordance with clause 9A of the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988, which improves the reliability of supply for downstream irrigators. Aquaculture is not applicable to the project.
(vi) will support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum:	The continued operation of the Coleridge HEPS will enable water to continue to be used for renewable electricity generation. The project does not relate to the development of minerals or petroleum, and CRC considers this provision has limited relevance to the project.
(vii) will support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions:	CRC notes that as the project is already in operation it will not contribute further to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, however its continued operation via this reconsenting project will allow it to continue generating renewable hydroelectricity thus avoiding the need to potentially invest in greenhouse gas alternatives for energy generation if it was not reconsented.
(viii) will support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards:	The scheme can release stored water to the Rakaia River, supporting the reliability of water supply for downstream farming operations along the Rakaia River. This may support climate change adaptation. However, CRC notes that this is something to be further explored in the substantive application. However, CRC considers that the Applicant should further assess this, including the effects of climate change on the scheme's operation, in the substantive application.
(ix) will address significant environmental issues:	The project is not expected to address significant environmental issues.
(ixa) will promote competition in the grocery industry:	Not applicable.

(x) is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies:	The scheme meets the requirements of regionally significant infrastructure in the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS), which provides for such infrastructure through its objectives and policies. The CLWRP also includes specific rules, objectives and policies for the consenting of the Coleridge HEPS. CRC therefore considers that the project is generally consistent with the CRPS and CLWRP, subject to adverse effects being appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated (see Appendix 1).
(b) any other matters the Minister considers relevant.	The other matters to consider in relation to the proposal are at the discretion of the Minister. However, CRC lists matters below in Appendix 1 regarding comment from technical science teams for the Ministers' consideration.

Appendix 1: Technical Advice

The following comments have been provided by CRC's technical experts in response to the referral documents. This should not be treated as consideration of all potential effects. Rather key matters for consideration in a Substantive application.

Consent Planning

CRC agrees with the Applicants' identification of the following activities as requiring resource consent under the CLWRP and the relevant sections of the RMA:

- Consent under section 14 of the RMA to take, use, dam and divert water for hydroelectricity generation and cooling water purposes;
- Consent under section 15 of the RMA to discharge water and contaminants (e.g. sediment) to water or land;
- Consent under section 13 of the RMA to erect, reconstruct, place, use and maintain structures within the bed of lakes and rivers;
- Consent under section 13 of the RMA to excavate and disturb the bed of lakes and rivers, and any associated clearance of vegetation; and
- Consent under section 13/15 of the RMA to deposit and place substances (e.g. gravel, silt and sediment) in the bed of lakes and rivers.

Until a comprehensive description of the proposal is received, CRC is unable to confirm the specific consent requirements. However, CRC agrees that these are the likely consent requirements.

While CRC generally agrees that the earthworks are contained within the beds of rivers, there is potential for earthworks on the margins of riverbeds, which may require resource consent under section 9 of the RMA.

As noted in the response to section 22(2)(a)(x) above, CRC considers that the project is generally consistent with the CLWRP and CRPS and agrees with the Applicant that both documents expressly support infrastructure, particularly renewable electricity generation. However, the objectives and policies of these documents also direct that the adverse effects of these activities be avoided, remedied or mitigated. CRC also notes that the following national direction and instruments are relevant to the project:

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (NPSREG), as amended in 2025;
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM);
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NESF); and
- National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988.

CRC agrees with the Applicant that the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPSIB) does not apply, as clause 1.3(3) of the NPSIB excludes the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of renewable electricity generation assets and activities.

CRC agrees with the Applicant's request for a three-year lodgement period for the substantive application, to allow sufficient time for monitoring and fieldwork to inform the technical assessments, and considers that this approach has merit.

Natural Hazards

CRC's natural hazards team has no substantive concerns with the information provided in the referral application. From a flooding perspective, a flow of 40 cumecs is insignificant in the context of the Rakaia River.

Groundwater

From review of the relatively high-level information provided within the referral application, CRC sees the following potential issues/effects to be resolved:

- The effects of scheme operations on groundwater levels around Lake Coleridge and the Rakaia River (near Lake Coleridge and downstream);
- The potential effects of changes in groundwater levels on groundwater availability for groundwater receptors and/or abstractors;
- The potential effects of scheme operations on groundwater quality around Lake Coleridge and downstream along the Rakaia River corridor;
- The potential cumulative effects of scheme operations on groundwater quantity and quality; and
- The potential effects of climate change on scheme operations, and any resulting effects on groundwater quantity and quality.

It is CRC's view that the applicant's assessment of the project does not address effects on groundwater quality or quantity.

Water Ecology

CRC notes that the referral application does not include an ecological effects assessment, nor does it respond to the comments CRC provided on 4 May 2026 in response to the Applicant's notification under section 11 of the FTAA. Rather it is stated on Page 11 of the Attachment 5 of the referral application that the Notification response will be considered by Manawa Energy/Contact as the substantive application is developed. CRC considers that both matters will need to be fully addressed in the substantive application.

CRC notes that the flows in the Rakaia River are heavily modified and the Coleridge HEPS is a major contributor to this.

CRC expects the following assessments to be provided in the substantive application:

- Assess water quality and ecological effects across all affected rivers in the upper Rakaia catchment. Periphyton and macroinvertebrates should be explicitly included within "riverbed vegetation and fauna", as they are key indicators of ecosystem health;
- Assess effects on the full fish community, including native species (upland longjaw galaxias (Nationally Vulnerable) and longfin eel (At Risk - Declining) and sports fish (chinook salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout);
- Assess the ecological effects of diverting all flow from the Harper and Acheron Rivers and leaving only a small residual flow in the Wilberforce River, and describe how these diversions will be monitored;

- Assess downstream water quality effects, including temperature changes and reduced dilution of nutrients;
- Assess effects where tailrace discharges do not match lake inflows, including sub daily flow fluctuations and their effects on downstream river values. This should include a comparison of the effects of releasing water for irrigation versus power generation;
- Assess fish passage effects from all scheme activities, including for both upstream and downstream migrating eels. This should evaluate how well the existing trap and transfer programme is performing against its expected outcomes and identify and explain the reasons for any proposed improvements (e.g. reducing turbine related fish mortality);
- Assess downstream water quality effects from in river diversions and maintenance works and propose conditions that are proportionate to the risks of sediment discharges to water quality, habitat and fish; and
- Any native fish management plan should include fish salvage wherever flows may be reduced or stopped, even briefly, including in rivers downstream of diversions, in canals, and in the tailrace below the power station. CRC notes that the application currently proposes fish salvage only in canals following drainage for maintenance. CRC also recommends that an equivalent plan for sports fish be provided with the substantive application.

Water Quantity (Hydrology)

The referral application does not include any assessment of the scheme's hydrological effects, nor does it respond to CRC's earlier comments provided on 4 May 2026 under section 11 of the FTAA. The Applicant says both will be covered in the substantive application, including through a hydrology assessment. As a result, CRC has only limited information to comment on at this stage.

CRC expects the substantive application to address the following:

- Power generation and irrigation storage assessed separately. Releasing stored water for irrigation will have different effects from using water for power generation. Both the hydrological and geomorphological assessments should identify and compare these effects;
- Diversions and residual flows. The scheme can divert all of the flow from the Harper and Acheron Rivers and leaves only a small residual flow in the Wilberforce River. The assessment should cover the hydrological effects of this and how these flows will be monitored;
- Reliability of supply for other Rakaia abstractors. The way stored water is managed could affect other users' ability to take their normal allocation and could push them towards buying stored water from Manawa. No assessment of this appears to be proposed currently; and
- Irrigation storage under the Rakaia Water Conservation Order. Manawa began storing irrigation water in Lake Coleridge after the Order was amended (clause 9A), relying on its existing consents rather than varying them. Because these new consents will authorise that storage, its effects should be clearly assessed alongside those of power generation.

Water Quality

The referral application gives little or no information currently on the actual or anticipated adverse effects on Lake Coleridge. The Applicant's 1 September 2026 Memorandum (paragraph 9) says the effects were identified when the scheme was last consented in 1995/96 and have been managed since. CRC considers the substantive application should also assess whether those effects turned out as expected over the past 30 years, and whether the existing mitigation has worked.

The scheme alters sediment and water inputs to the lake compared with its natural state and may increase water level fluctuations. Both have the potential to substantially change lake ecology. CRC expects the substantive application to assess:

- How much faster the lake is filling with sediment than it would naturally, where that sediment is deposited (including data on lakebed accumulation near the inflow), and the ecological effects;
- The ongoing effects of turbidity on both the lakebed and open water, including how the additional sediment mixes and spreads through the lake, and its effects on macrophytes, fish, invertebrates and phytoplankton;
- The effects of shorter residence time on nutrient cycling. Also, whether the diversions add nutrients to the lake (mainly phosphorus), and how this affects phytoplankton growth; and
- The effects on lake macrophytes which are an important part of the lake ecosystem.

Invitation to provide written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

You have been invited to provide written comments to the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) on an application to refer a project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing this template.

Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Written comments must be received by MfE, on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure, no later than the due date.

Important information

Your personal information will be held by MfE and be used in relation to the project application and process. You have the right to access and correct personal information held by MfE.

A copy of your comments, including all personal information, will be provided to the Minister and the applicant.

If you are a corporate entity making comments on this application, your full contact details will be publicly available.

For individuals, your name will be publicly available, but your contact details (phone number, address, and email) will not be publicly available.

A copy of your comments will also be published on the Fast-track website. If you believe any of the information you have provided is confidential or sensitive and should be withheld from publication, please highlight the information concerned and provide an explanation to support your request for withholding it. Your comment and explanation will be decided by the Ministry on whether to withhold the information from publication.

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All information held by MfE is subject to the Official Information Act 1982.

More information on the fast-track approvals process and providing comments can be found at [Process overview](#) | [Fast-track website](#)

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Project name	Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project
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Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Selwyn District Council		
*First name	Geoff		
*Last name	Deavoll		
Postal address			
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and the project name on the additional pages.

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Delegated signoff

Geoff Deavoll

Principal Planner

Date 30 September 2026

Comments on a fast-track referral application Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA)

Fast-Track Referral Application FTAA-2608-1275 Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project

General Comment

Selwyn District Council has reviewed the referral application lodged by Manawa Energy Limited and Contact Energy Limited for the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (the Project) made under the FTAA and have assessed the Project against the relevant considerations under section 22 subsection (2) of the Act. We have also provided responses to the specific questions asked in the invitation to provide comment.

The Project intends to renew the existing resource consents for the operation of the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme to maintain the existing generation of renewable electricity supplying parts of Selwyn District and feeding into the National Grid. There are no existing district land use consents that are required to be replaced as part of this project. The referral application notes that a district land use consent may be part of the substantive application, for earthworks required for the ongoing operation of the scheme. The application is not specific about the location that earthworks may be required to be undertaken for the operation of the scheme, but this can be detailed and discussed as part of the substantive application. It is noted that the Partially Operative Selwyn District Plan recognises the importance of the existing scheme and includes enabling provisions for the maintenance and minor upgrade of infrastructure associated with the scheme.

Much of the Project will involve the renewal of regional consents for the diversion, take, use, and discharge of water for the continued operation of the scheme. The referral application refers to resource consents required under the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, but the activity is also subject to the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988 (Rakaia WCO) which the referral application does not acknowledge. The Rakaia WCO provides for resource consents to be renewed on similar terms and conditions as the existing resource consents, where the WCO would otherwise require the Wilberforce River and the Harper River to be retained in their natural state and the level of Lake Coleridge to be retained in its existing state. The regime for the storage of water in Lake Coleridge for release for downstream irrigation (referred to as the 'Lake Coleridge Project') is also enabled and provided for in the Rakaia WCO.

Overall, we consider that the project will realise at least regionally significant benefits through the continued and efficient use of existing infrastructure for renewable energy generation that would

require a significant capital cost to otherwise replace or provide for elsewhere, will continue to support climate change mitigation by adding to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and will support climate change adaptation by providing a resilient local source of renewable electricity for the mid-Canterbury region. We agree that due to the complexity of the project and the approvals sought under multiple regulatory processes, the referral of this project will likely be facilitated through a timelier and cost-effective process under the FTAA, when compared to the RMA.

It is noted that a timeframe of three years is requested by which time the substantive application shall be lodged. The justification for this extended lapse period is acceptable given the data collection and research required to inform the resource consent applications.

- 1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please provide written confirmation.**

We can confirm that there are no applications lodged with the Council that would be a competing application should a substantive application for this project be lodged in the future.

- 2. Whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act).**

We consider that the project does not involve an ineligible activity given the definition of that term within the FTAA.

- 3. Whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21(5) of Act).**

We consider that the referral application does not engage any reason to decline set out under section 21(5).

Office of Hon Simon Watts

Minister for Building and Construction
Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue
Minister for Auckland



Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
c.bishop@parliament.govt.nz

16 SEP 2026

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on Contact Energy Limited / Manawa Energy Limited's Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) referral application, Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (FTAA-2608-1275).

The continued operation of the Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Scheme promotes the benefits of renewable electricity generation and will help to reduce New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my support for projects which deliver positive climate outcomes for New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line.

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change



21 SEP 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

REQ-0039249

Dear Chris

Thank you for the opportunity to comment under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on the referral applications for **Out of Scope**

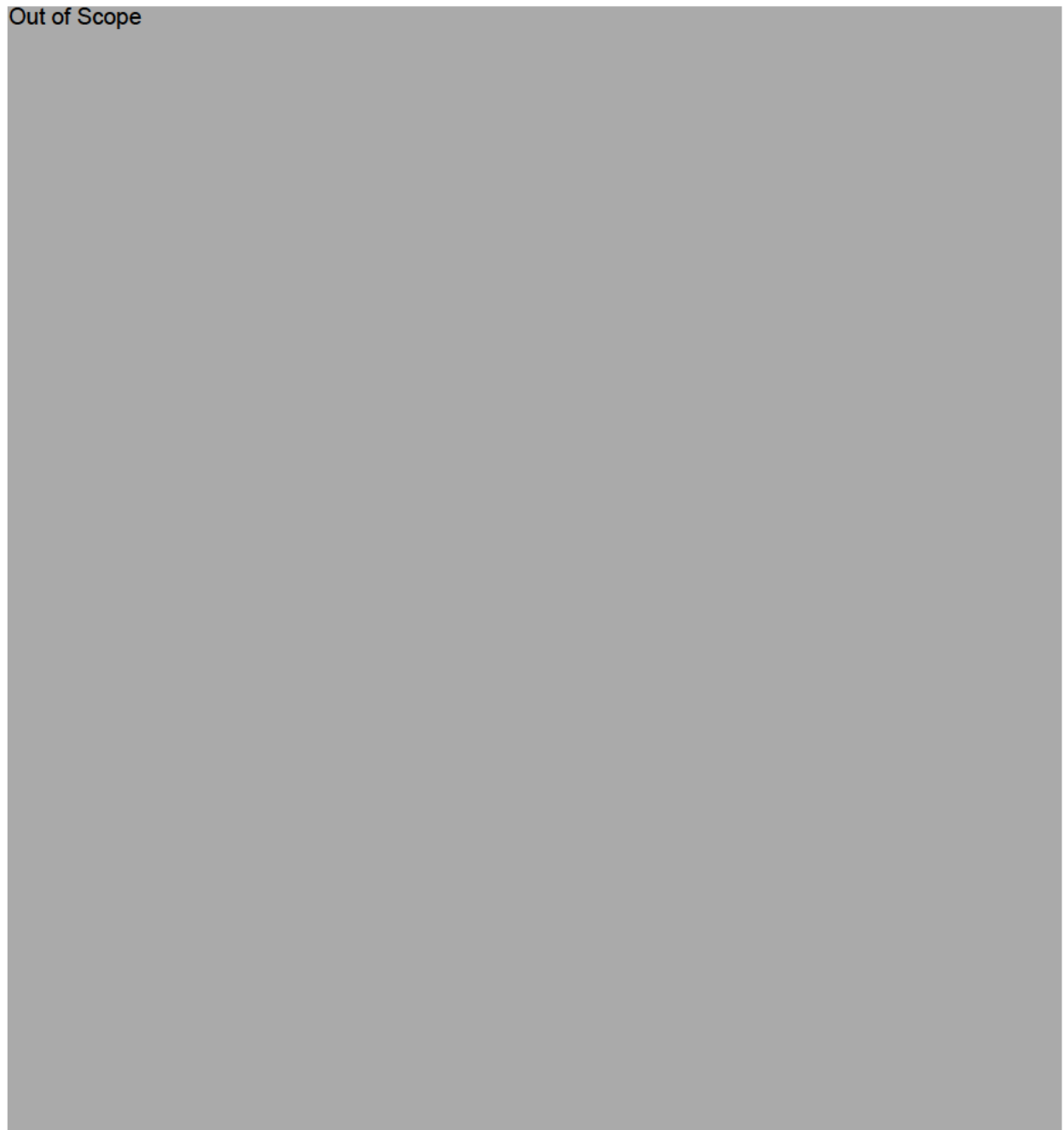
Out of Scope Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (FTAA-2608-1275) **Out of Scope**

I am providing these comments in my capacity as Minister for Economic Growth. They focus on whether each application is likely to deliver significant economic benefits under section 22(2)(a)(iv) of the Act based on the information provided by the applicants. The quantitative estimates below are drawn from economic assessments provided by the applicants.

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project, FTAA-2608-1275

The application is to renew the consents required for the continued operation and maintenance of the existing Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme around Lake Coleridge/Whakamātau in the Selwyn District, Canterbury. The Scheme has an installed capacity of 39.5 megawatts and generates approximately 270 gigawatt-hours annually, which the applicant states is sufficient to power around 33,700 homes. No new construction or material change to the existing operating regime is proposed.

As this is a reconsenting proposal, project capital expenditure and construction-related GDP, employment and wages are not provided. The applicant estimates that rebuilding the Scheme would cost approximately \$300 million, although this is a replacement-value estimate rather than proposed expenditure. The Scheme directly employs six full-time staff and supports additional contractors and support staff, which are not quantified. The applicant states that its operation contributes more than \$10 million annually to the local economy, depending on

maintenance activity and including the supply of irrigation water. Annual operational GDP, wages and electricity revenue are not provided.

The principal economic benefit is maintaining existing controllable renewable generation. The applicant estimates that replacing the Scheme's output would require approximately \$266.6 million of wind generation and \$93.2 million of gas-fuelled peaking capacity, a combined capital cost of approximately \$359.8 million, as well as around \$6.3 million annually in thermal fuel costs. These figures are applicant estimates, and the completed economic assessment and supporting methodology were not provided. Therefore, the assumed replacement-generation mix and costs cannot be independently verified and net present value, displacement and fiscal impacts are not quantified.

On balance, the proposal appears likely to deliver significant regional economic benefits under section 22(2)(a)(iv) of the Act by maintaining existing generation and avoiding potentially material replacement and fuel costs. This conclusion remains subject to the assumptions and evidence limitations outlined above.

Out of Scope

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for Economic Growth

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation
Minister for Māori Crown Relations
Minister for Māori Development
Minister for Whānau Ora
Associate Minister of Housing



By email: infrastructure.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Bishop,

Invitation to comment on the Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project under section 17 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

I have considered the application and its alignment with my portfolios as Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and Minister for Māori Development.

I support the application progressing and I encourage the applicant and the panel to have due regard to:

- relevant Treaty settlement legislation and instruments; and
- any feedback received from relevant Māori groups, as set out in the Treaty settlements and other obligations (Section 18) report.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Tama Whaitiri', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Tama Potaka

Te Minita mō Te Arawhiti me Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori
Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and Minister for Māori Development

Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Resources
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Energy



24 September 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (FTAA-2608-1275)

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA 2024).

The FTAA 2024 has been established to provide a regime that makes it easier and quicker for regionally and nationally significant infrastructure projects to gain the approvals needed for development, in support of this Government's economic growth objectives.

I have considered the application and its alignment with the priorities of my Regional Development portfolio. My comments are attached as Annex One.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Jones'.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Development

Annex One – Regional Development comments

Project overview

1. Contact Energy Limited has applied for Fast-track approval to renew the consents for the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme (the Scheme) to maintain their renewable electricity generation plant in the Canterbury Region.
2. Renewed consents are sought for the damming and diversion of water for hydro-electricity generation, together with the discharge of water and contaminants, construction, use and maintenance of required structures within lake and river beds, and related activities to enable the continuation of the Scheme.
3. The Scheme is located around Lake Coleridge, within the Selwyn District of the Canterbury region. It generates up to a maximum 39.5 megawatts of electricity with an average annual output of 270 gigawatt-hours, which is enough electricity to power approximately 33,700 homes.
4. The applicant has not provided an economic impact assessment to support this referral application. However, they do outline the key economic benefits as:
 - a. avoiding substantial capital cost (to construct new generation if consents are not renewed) of approximately \$359.8 million
 - b. avoiding other costs such as electricity transmission losses (if electricity had to be imported from outside the region)
 - c. reduction of local economic activity if operation of the Scheme is unable to continue.

Regional Development comments

5. While they are not explicitly quantified in the application, I expect that the presence of the Scheme has economic benefit to the Canterbury region, and there would be impacts to the economy should it cease operation. Should you require detail of the economic impacts (eg on GDP, employment) to inform your referral decision, you may wish to request this information from the applicant.
6. The application appears to primarily have implications for the energy system, and commentary from the Minister for Energy will be more relevant in assessing the strategic importance of the project.

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

24 August 2026

Project name	Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (Project) REQ004216V3R0
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Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Transpower New Zealand Limited (Transpower)		
*First name	Andy		
*Last name	Eccleshall		
Postal address	PO Box 21-154, Edgeware, Christchurch 8143		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the application for the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project (Project) and its potential impact on National Grid assets. Transpower has been asked to provide comment pursuant to the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. The project generates electricity that is conveyed by the National Grid and is therefore an activity that Transpower supports. Transpower do not have any specific comments regarding the reconsenting of the activity but supports the granting of the consents. Transpower would appreciate receiving copies of communication issued on the progress of the application.

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Project name	FTAA-2608-1275: Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting
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Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited		
*First name	Ally		
*Last name	Crane		
Postal address			
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and the project name on the additional pages.

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Managers signoff



Manager Name – Ally Crane

Date 25/9/2026



Te Runanga O Arowhenua Society Inc.



AORAKI
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTANCY LTD

25 September 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
C/o Ministry for the Environment
Environment House
23 Kate Sheppard Place
Thorndon
WELLINGTON 6011

[Delivered by email to: ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz]

E te Minita, tēnā koe

FTAA-2608-1275: Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project - Invitation to Comment

This written response relates to the invitation by the Fast Track Application Team to comment on the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting project by Contact Energy and Manawa Energy Limited (the Applicant).

This written response has been prepared by Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited (AECL) on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua (Arowhenua). AECL is the environmental entity mandated by Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua Society Inc to represent the environmental interests of Arowhenua.

Contact Energy approached Arowhenua and AECL prior to lodging their Referral Application under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) to initiate the consultation process in good faith. Arowhenua through AECL anticipates that they will continue to work alongside Contact Energy in the development of its substantive application. For this reason, Arowhenua supports Contact Energy pursuing the processing of its consents through FTAA.

Arowhenua

Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua is one of the eighteen Papatipu Rūnanga of Kāi¹ Tahu who uphold the manawhenua and mana moana of their takiwā.

The Project is located within the takiwā of Arowhenua. Arowhenua hold manawhenua rights and interests over the lands and waters extending from the Rakaia River in the north to the Waitaki River in the south, and from the coast to Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana (the Southern Alps).

Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua (Arowhenua) shares the role of kaitiaki for Rakaia River with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Te Taumutu Rūnanga. Arowhenua recognises Te Taumutu Rūnanga taking the lead with regard to this proposal. Arowhenua does however, want it recognised that water management within the area to provide for irrigation has meant the Rakaia is augmented by water from waterbodies including the Rakitata River, which is located within the takiwā of Arowhenua.

¹ In Ngai Tahu/Kai Tahu dialect, 'k' is used interchangeably with 'ng'. As the 'k' variant is most commonly used by Kati Huirapa in the Mackenzie District, this is the practice followed in this response, except for references to legislation or the name of a legal entity (for example Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua).

The Project and Site

The project seeks approvals to enable the ongoing operation and maintenance of the existing Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme, a renewable electricity generation scheme originally commissioned in 1914, located around Lake Coleridge in the Selwyn District, Canterbury.

The existing hydro-electric generation scheme is owned and operated by Manawa Energy Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Contact Energy Limited. The scheme currently generates, and is expected to continue generating, up to 39.5 MW (megawatts) of electricity, with an average annual output of approximately 270 GWh (gigawatt-hours).

Whakamātau (Lake Coleridge) is recorded by Ngāi Tahu as being a kaika nohoaka and pā tūtuuru where kākāpō, weka and tuna were gathered. The Rakaia River is a critical ara Tawhito (traditional travel route) that Arowhenua navigated between Arowhenua Pā (Temuka) and Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast). The health of the catchment, its water quality, and quantity of flowing water are the primary concerns for Arowhenua alongside the ability for the Rakaia catchment to sustain healthy mahika kai.

Attachment 5 of the Applicant's responses to statements in the FTAA, correctly states that Whakamātau is a Statutory Acknowledgement Area under the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997 and outlines its importance. The Rakaia also has nohonanga entitlements recognised through settlement and is an important for taonga species.

Consultation with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua

Arowhenua agrees with the Applicant's summary of Affected Persons with regard to Engagement with Iwi/Hapū found in Attachment 5. Regular consultation has occurred between the Applicant and AECL and the information provided in the referral application is an accurate reflection of the information provided to Arowhenua during consultation.

Arowhenua appreciates the Applicant's commitment to remain committed to working with Rūnanga during the preparation of the substantive application and whilst-in-progress.

Authorised for lodgement by:



Fiona Pimm

Chair

Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua Inc Society

Email: arowhenua.admin@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Office: (03) 615 9646

Address for Service:

Ally Crane

General Manager

Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Mobile: s 9(2)(a) / Office: s 9(2)(a)



Te Runanga O Arowhenua Society Inc.



AORAKI
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTANCY LTD

25 September 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
C/o Ministry for the Environment
Environment House
23 Kate Sheppard Place
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[Delivered by email to: ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz]

E te Minita, tēnā koe

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The Project and Site

The project seeks approvals to enable the ongoing operation and maintenance of the existing Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme, a renewable electricity generation scheme originally commissioned in 1914, located around Lake Coleridge in the Selwyn District, Canterbury.

The existing hydro-electric generation scheme is owned and operated by Manawa Energy Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Contact Energy Limited. The scheme currently generates, and is expected to continue generating, up to 39.5 MW (megawatts) of electricity, with an average annual output of approximately 270 GWh (gigawatt-hours).

Whakamātau (Lake Coleridge) is recorded by Ngāi Tahu as being a kaika nohoaka and pā tūturu where kākāpō, weka and tuna were gathered. The Rakaia River is a critical ara Tawhito (traditional travel route) that Arowhenua navigated between Arowhenua Pā (Temuka) and Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast). The health of the catchment, its water quality, and quantity of flowing water are the primary concerns for Arowhenua alongside the ability for the Rakaia catchment to sustain healthy mahika kai.

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Arowhenua appreciates the Applicant's commitment to remain committed to working with Rūnanga during the preparation of the substantive application and whilst-in-progress.

Authorised for lodgement by:



Fiona Pimm

Chair

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Email: arowhenua.admin@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Office: (03) 615 9646

Address for Service:

Ally Crane

General Manager

Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Mobile: s 9(2)(a) / Office: s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2608-1275
Project name	Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project
Applicant name	Manawa Energy Limited and Contact Energy Limited
Project summary details	The project seeks approvals to enable the ongoing operation and maintenance of the existing Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme, a renewable electricity generation scheme originally commissioned in 1914, located around Lake Coleridge in the Selwyn District, Canterbury. The applicant identifies that the project area may include public conservation land. The existing hydro-electric generation scheme is owned and operated by Manawa Energy Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Contact Energy Limited. The scheme currently generates, and is expected to continue generating, up to 39.5 MW (megawatts) of electricity, with an average annual output of approximately 270 GWh (gigawatt-hours). The applicant estimates that the scheme generates sufficient electricity to power approximately 33,700 homes in the Canterbury Region. The scheme utilises Lake Coleridge and associated water diversion, storage and conveyance infrastructure to generate electricity, including water takes and diversions from the Wilberforce, Harper and Acheron Rivers, canals, tunnels, penstocks, a power station, and a tailrace discharging to the Rakaia River. The project seeks approvals to enable the continued operation and maintenance of this existing infrastructure. The applicant seeks the following approvals via the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project, including some approvals sought at this stage on a precautionary basis, subject to further investigations prior to any substantive application: - resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 - wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation that would otherwise be applied for in respect of a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

Appendix Four: Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 Taonga species

Schedule 97 – Taonga Species

Birds

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Hoiho	Yellow-eyed penguin	<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>
Kāhu	Australasian harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Kākā	South Island kākā	<i>Nestor meridionalis meridionalis</i>
Kākāpō	Kākāpō	<i>Strigops habroptilus</i>
Kākāriki	New Zealand parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus</i> spp
Kakaruai	South Island robin	<i>Petroica australis australis</i>
Kakī	Black stilt	<i>Himantopus novaezelandiae</i>
Kāmana	Crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Kārearea	New Zealand falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>
Karoro	Black-backed gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Kea	Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>
Kōau	Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
	Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius varius</i>
	Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>
Koekoeā	Long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>
Kōparapara or Korimako	Bellbird	<i>Anthornis melanura melanura</i>
Kororā	Blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>
Kōtare	Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>
Kōtuku	White heron	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Kōwhiowhio	Blue duck	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>
Kūaka	Bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Kūkupa/Kererū	New Zealand wood pigeon	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Kuruwhengu/Kuruwhengi	New Zealand shoveller	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>
Mātā	Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata punctata</i> and <i>Bowdleria punctata stewartiana</i> and <i>Bowdleria punctata wilsoni</i> and <i>Bowdleria punctata candata</i>
Matuku moana	Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
Miromiro	South Island tomtit	<i>Petroica macrocephala macrocephala</i>
Miromiro	Snares Island tomtit	<i>Petroica macrocephala danneferdi</i>
Mohua	Yellowhead	<i>Mohoua ochrocephala</i>
Pākura/Pūkeko	Swamp hen/Pūkeko	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Pārera	Grey duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Pateke	Brown teal	<i>Anas aucklandica</i>
Pīhoihoi	New Zealand pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
Pīpīwharau	Shining cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
Pīwakawaka	South Island fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>
Poaka	Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pokitiwha	Snares crested penguin	<i>Eudyptes robustus</i>
Pūtakitaki	Paradise shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>
Riroriro	Grey warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>
Roroa	Great spotted kiwi	<i>Apteryx haastii</i>
Rowi	Ōkārito brown kiwi	<i>Apteryx mantelli</i>
Ruru kōkō	Morepork	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>
Takahē	Takahē	<i>Porphyrio mantelli</i>
Tara	Terns	<i>Sterna</i> spp
Tawaki	Fiordland crested penguin	<i>Eudyptes pachyrhynchus</i>
Tete	Grey teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>
Tīteke	South Island saddleback	<i>Philesturnus carunculatus carunculatus</i>

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Tītī	Sooty shearwater/Muttonbird/Hutton's shearwater Common diving petrel South Georgian diving petrel Westland petrel Fairy prion Broad-billed prion White-faced storm petrel Cook's petrel Mottled petrel	<i>Puffinus griseus</i> and <i>Puffinus huttoni</i> and <i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i> and <i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i> and <i>Procellaria westlandica</i> and <i>Pachyptila turtur</i> and <i>Pachyptila vittata</i> and <i>Pelagodroma marina</i> and <i>Pterodroma cookii</i> and <i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>
Tītītipounamu	South Island rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris chloris</i>
Tokoeka	South Island brown kiwi	<i>Apteryx australis</i>
Toroa	Albatrosses and Mollymawks	<i>Diomedea</i> spp
Toutouwai	Stewart Island robin	<i>Petroica australis rakiura</i>
Tūī	Tūī	<i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae</i>
Tutukiwi	Snares Island snipe	<i>Coenocorypha aucklandica huegeli</i>
Weka	Western weka	<i>Gallirallus australis australis</i>
Weka	Stewart Island weka	<i>Gallirallus australis scotti</i>
Weka	Buff weka	<i>Gallirallus australis hectori</i>

Plants

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Akatorotoro	White rata	<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>
Aruhe	Fernroot (bracken)	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> var <i>esculentum</i>
Harakeke	Flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
Horoeka	Lancewood	<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>
Houhi	Mountain ribbonwood	<i>Hoheria lyalli</i> and <i>H. glabata</i>
Kahikatea	Kahikatea/White pine	<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>
Kāmahi	Kāmahi	<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>
Kānuka	Kānuka	<i>Kunzia ericoides</i>
Kāpuka	Broadleaf	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>
Karaeopirita	Supplejack	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Karaka	New Zealand laurel/Karaka	<i>Corynocarpus laevigata</i>
Karamū	Coprosma	<i>Coprosma robusta, coprosma lucida, coprosma foetidissima</i>
Kātote	Tree fern	<i>Cyathea smithii</i>
Kiekie	Kiekie	<i>Freycinetia baueriana</i> subsp <i>banksii</i>
Kōhia	NZ Passionfruit	<i>Passiflora tetrandia</i>
Korokio	Korokio bush Wire-netting	<i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>
Koromiko/Kōkōmuka	Koromiko	<i>Hebe salicifolia</i>
Kōtukutuku	Tree fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>
Kōwahi Kōhai	Kōwhai	<i>Sophora microphylla</i>
Mamaku	Tree fern	<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>
Mānia	Sedge	<i>Carex flagellifera</i>
Mānuka Kahikātoa	Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
Māpou	Red matipo	<i>Myrsine australis</i>
Mataī	Mataī/Black pine	<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>
Miro	Miro/Brown pine	<i>Podocarpus ferrugineus</i>
Ngaio	Ngaio	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>
Nīkau	New Zealand palm	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>
Pānako	(Species of fern)	<i>Asplenium obtusatum</i>
Pānako	(Species of fern)	<i>Botrychium australe</i> and <i>B. biforme</i>
Pātōtara	Dwarf mingimingi	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>
Pīngao	Pīngao	<i>Desmoschoenus spiralis</i>
Pōkākā	Pōkākā	<i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i>
Ponga/Poka	Tree fern	<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>
Rātā	Southern rātā	<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>
Raupō	Bulrush	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Rautāwhiri/Kōhūhū	Black matipo/Māpou	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>
Rimu	Rimu/Red pine	<i>Dacrydium cypressinum</i>
Rimurapa	Bull kelp	<i>Durvillaea antarctica</i>
Taramea	Speargrass, spaniard	<i>Aciphylla</i> spp
Tarata	Lemonwood	<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>
Tawai	Beech	<i>Nothofagus</i> spp
Tētēaweka	Muttonbird scrub	<i>Olearia angustifolia</i>
Tī rākau/Tī Kōuka	Cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>
Tīkumu	Mountain daisy	<i>Celmisia spectabilis</i> and <i>C. semicordata</i>
Tītoki	New Zealand ash	<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>
Toatoa	Mountain Toatoa, Celery pine	<i>Phyllocladus alpinus</i>
Toetoe	Toetoe	<i>Cortaderia richardii</i>
Tōtara	Tōtara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>
Tutu	Tutu	<i>Coriaria</i> spp
Wharariki	Mountain flax	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>
Whīnau	Hīnau	<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>
Wī	Silver tussock	<i>Poa cita</i>
Wīwī	Rushes	<i>Juncus</i> all indigenous <i>Juncus</i> spp and <i>J. maritimus</i>

a) *Marine mammals*

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Ihupuku	Southern elephant seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>
Kekeno	New Zealand fur seals	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>
Paikea	Humpback whales	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
Parāoa	Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>
Rāpoka/Whakahao	New Zealand sea lion/Hooker's sea lion	<i>Phocarctos hookeri</i>
Tohorā	Southern right whale	<i>Balaena australis</i>

Schedule 98 - Customary fisheries

Part A

Taonga fish species

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Kāeo	Sea tulip	<i>Pyura pachydermatum</i>
Koeke	Common shrimp	<i>Palaemon affinis</i>
Kōkopu/Hawai	Giant bully	<i>Gobiomorphus gobioides</i>
Kōwaro	Canterbury mudfish	<i>Neochanna burrowsius</i>
Paraki/Ngaiore	Common smelt	<i>Retropinna retropinna</i>
Piripiripōhatu	Torrentfish	<i>Cheimarrichthys fosteri</i>
Taiwharu	Giant kōkopu	<i>Galaxias argenteus</i>

Part B

Shellfish Species

Name in Māori	Name in English	Scientific name
Pipi/Kākahi	Pipi	<i>Paphies australe</i>
Tuaki	Cockle	<i>Austrovenus stutchburgi</i>
Tuaki/Hākiari, Kuhakuha/Pūrimu	Surfclam	<i>Dosinia anus</i> , <i>Paphies donacina</i> , <i>Mactra discor</i> , <i>Mactra murchsoni</i> , <i>Spisula aequilateralis</i> , <i>Basina yatei</i> , or <i>Dosinia subrosa</i>
Tuatua	Tuatua	<i>Paphies subtriangulata</i> , <i>Paphies donacina</i>
Waikaka/Pūpū	Mudsnail	<i>Amphibola crenata</i> , <i>Turbo smaragdus</i> , <i>Zedilom</i> spp

Appendix 3 – Statutory Acknowledgement

SCHEDULE 76

STATUTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR WHAKAMATAU (LAKE COLERIDGE)

Statutory area

The statutory area to which this statutory acknowledgement applies is the lake known as Whakamatau (Lake Coleridge), the location of which is shown on Allocation Plan MD 128 (SO 19855).

Preamble

Under section 206, the Crown acknowledges Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's statement of Ngāi Tahu's cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association to Whakamatau, as set out below.

Ngāi Tahu association with Whakamatau

Whakamatau is one of the lakes referred to in the tradition of “Ngā Puna Wai Karikari o Rakaihautu” which tells how the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu were dug by the rangatira (chief) Rakaihautu. Rakaihautu was the captain of the canoe, Uruao, which brought the tribe, Waitaha, to New Zealand. Rakaihautu beached his canoe at Whakatū (Nelson). From Whakatū, Rakaihautu divided the new arrivals in two, with his son taking one party to explore the coastline southwards and Rakaihautu taking another southwards by an inland route. On his inland journey southward, Rakaihautu used his famous kō (a tool similar to a spade) to dig the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu, including Whakamatau.

For Ngāi Tahu, traditions such as this represent the links between the cosmological world of the gods and present generations, these histories reinforce tribal identity and solidarity, and continuity between generations, and document the events which shaped the environment of Te Wai Pounamu and Ngāi Tahu as an iwi.

This lake was occupied by the Ngāti Tū Te Piriraki hapū. Tū Te Piriraki was the son of Tū Te Kawa, a Ngāti Mamoe chief who held manawhenua in this region. When Tū Te Kawa died his family, including Tū Te Piriraki, married into the senior Ngāi Tahu families. Such strategic marriages between hapū strengthened the kupenga (net) of whakapapa and thus rights to use the resources of the lake.

Whakamatau was a notable mahinga kai where tuna (eel) and water fowl were taken. The kiore (polynesian rat) was also taken in this region. The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the lake, the relationship of people with the lake and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources. All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today.

Whakamatau was an integral part of a network of trails linking North Canterbury and Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast) which were used by the tūpuna in order to ensure the safest journey and incorporated locations along the way that were identified for activities including camping overnight and gathering kai. Knowledge of these trails continues to be held by whānau and hapū

and is regarded as a taonga. The traditional mobile lifestyle of the people led to their dependence on the resources of the lake.

As a result of the area's history as a settlement site and part of a trail, there are many urupā associated with the lake. Urupā are the resting places of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna and, as such, are the focus for whānau traditions. These are places holding the memories, traditions, victories and defeats of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna, and are frequently protected by secret locations.

The mauri of Whakamatau represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngāi Tahu Whānui with the lake.

Purposes of statutory acknowledgement

Pursuant to section 215, and without limiting the rest of this schedule, the only purposes of this statutory acknowledgement are—

- (a) to require that consent authorities forward summaries of resource consent applications to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as required by regulations made pursuant to section 207 (clause 12.2.3 of the deed of settlement); and
- (b) to require that consent authorities, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, or the Environment Court, as the case may be, have regard to this statutory acknowledgement in relation to Whakamatau, as provided in sections 208 to 210 (clause 12.2.4 of the deed of settlement); and
- (c) to empower the Minister responsible for management of Whakamatau or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be, to enter into a Deed of Recognition as provided in section 212 (clause 12.2.6 of the deed of settlement); and
- (d) to enable Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and any member of Ngāi Tahu Whānui to cite this statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of Ngāi Tahu to Whakamatau as provided in section 211 (clause 12.2.5 of the deed of settlement).

Limitations on effect of statutory acknowledgement

Except as expressly provided in sections 208 to 211, 213, and 215,—

- (a) this statutory acknowledgement does not affect, and is not to be taken into account in, the exercise of any power, duty, or function by any person or entity under any statute, regulation, or bylaw; and
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), no person or entity, in considering any matter or making any decision or recommendation under any statute, regulation, or bylaw, may give any greater or lesser weight to Ngāi Tahu's association to Whakamatau (as described in this statutory acknowledgement) than that person or entity would give under the relevant statute, regulation, or bylaw, if this statutory acknowledgement did not exist in respect of Whakamatau.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not affect the lawful rights or interests of any person who is not a party to the deed of settlement.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not, of itself, have the effect of granting, creating, or providing evidence of any estate or interest in, or any rights of any kind whatsoever relating to, Whakamatau.



Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

30 September 2026

Stephanie Frame
Manager - Fast-Track Operations
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport

WELLINGTON

Uploaded through the Fast-track Portal

Tēnā koe Stephanie,

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu comments on referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024: Coleridge Hydroelectric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project – [FTAA-2608-1275]

Introduction

- 1.1 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (**Te Rūnanga**) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the referral application made by Manawa Energy Limited and Contact Energy Limited (the **Applicant**) for the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project (the **Project**).
- 1.2 Te Rūnanga is neutral on whether the Project should be referred into the fast-track approvals process. Our comments on the referral of the Project are set out below (see **Section 3**). Te Rūnanga also supports the comments made by Kā Rūnaka (Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Te Taumutu Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua).

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

- 2.1 These comments are made on behalf of Te Rūnanga, which is the statutorily recognised representative tribal body of Ngāi Tahu Whānui, as provided by section 15 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 (**TRONT Act**).
- 2.2 Te Rūnanga encompasses five hapū, Kati Kurī, Ngāti Irakehu, Kati Huirapa, Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, Ngāi Tūāhuriri and 18 Papatipu Rūnanga, who uphold the mana whenua and mana moana of their respective rohe.
- 2.3 Ngāi Tahu holds and exercises rangatiratanga within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā (see **Appendix One**) and has done so since before the Crown began exercising its powers in New Zealand from 1840. The Takiwā covers most of Te Waipounamu and its surrounding islands, constituting over half of New Zealand's landmass, coastlines and waterways. The

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Crown and Parliament recognise and affirm Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga in our Takiwā through:

- a) Article II of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (**Te Tiriti**);
- b) the 1997 Deed of Settlement between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown; and
- c) the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (**NTCSA**).

- 2.4 As recorded in the Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu (see **Appendix Two**), the Ngāi Tahu Settlement marked a turning point, and the beginning of a “new age of co-operation”. The Crown apologised for its “past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries” and confirmed that “it recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui”. Those commitments are fundamental to the fast-track regime.
- 2.5 Te Rūnanga requests that the Minister accord these comments with the status and weight of the tribal collective of Ngāi Tahu Whānui comprising over 90,000 registered iwi members. Notwithstanding its statutory status as the representative voice of Ngāi Tahu whānui “for all purposes”, Te Rūnanga accepts and respects the right of Papatipu Rūnanga to make their own comments. Te Rūnanga understands that respective Papatipu Rūnanga and their Regional Environmental Entities have been separately invited to comment on the Project.

Comments

Ngāi Tahu Settlement Statutory Acknowledgement and Nohoanga

- 3.1. The renewal project site has impacts on the Whakamatau (Lake Coleridge) Statutory Acknowledgement Area. Ngāi Tahu associations with Whakamatau are detailed in Schedule 76 of the NTCSA (refer to Appendix Three). The associations include important Ngāi Tahu sites, histories, and traditions including settlement sites, resource use and urupā. Whakamatau was an integral part of the trail network linking the east coast with Te Tai Poutini.
- 3.2. As described in Schedule 76, Whakamatau was notable for mahinga kai, particularly tuna (eel), waterfowl and kiore (Polynesian rat). The connection to, and the resources within, the area remain important to Ngāi Tahu whānui today.
- 3.3. The Wilberforce, Harper and Acheron Rivers are part of the Rakaia River catchment. The importance of the catchment (in addition to Whakamatau) for mahinga kai has also been recognised in settlement through the allocation of land for the Rakaia River (No. 1) and Rakaia River (No. 2) Nohoanga Entitlements.
- 3.4. Under settlement, Nohoanga Entitlements enable Ngāi Tahu Whānui to temporarily occupy land (camp) close to waterways, and to have access for fishing and gathering of natural resources, following in the traditions of Ngāi Tahu tīpuna. While the relevant entitlements are located on the lower reaches of the Rakaia River, mahinga kai species,

such as tuna, utilise the full catchment, including the upper reaches, as part of their life cycle.

Ngāi Tahu Settlement Taonga Species

- 3.5. The special association Ngāi Tahu have with taonga species within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā has been acknowledged by the Crown in the NTCSA, with a list of taonga species provided in Schedule 97 (refer to Appendix Four), which includes 49 bird species, 54 plant species and six marine mammals.
- 3.6. Both the Whakamatau and Rakaia catchments are known to have a number of taonga species recognised through the settlement, as well as species considered taonga but not listed within the NTCSA, for example tuna. The application acknowledges that ecological assessments are needed before any substantive application is lodged.

Timeframe

- 3.7. The Applicant has requested a three-year timeframe to lodge the substantive application if the referral is granted. Te Rūnanga would support this timeframe where it enables a robust and comprehensive application, along with comprehensive engagement with Papatipu Rūnanga that fully informs the application.

Decision Sought

- 4.1 Te Rūnanga thanks the Minister for the opportunity to comment on the referral application.
- 4.2 Te Rūnanga is aware that the Applicant has had some engagement with Kā Rūnaka and their Regional Environment Entities on the referral application. While Te Rūnanga does not have a position on the Project being allowed to go through the fast-track approvals process, we seek that, if the Project is referred, any referral decision records the expectation that the Applicant continues meaningful engagement with Kā Rūnaka, including cultural assessments.
- 4.3 This engagement, along with the sharing of technical reports, will ultimately enable Kā Rūnaka to reach an informed position on the Project, which can then inform the substantive application should it be referred.

Nuku noa nā



Maru Rout,
Programme Lead - Mauri
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Address for Service:
Lisa MacKenzie, Senior Environmental Advisor – Te Ao Tūroa
Email: TTW@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Appendices:

Appendix One – Map of takiwā of Ngāi Tahu

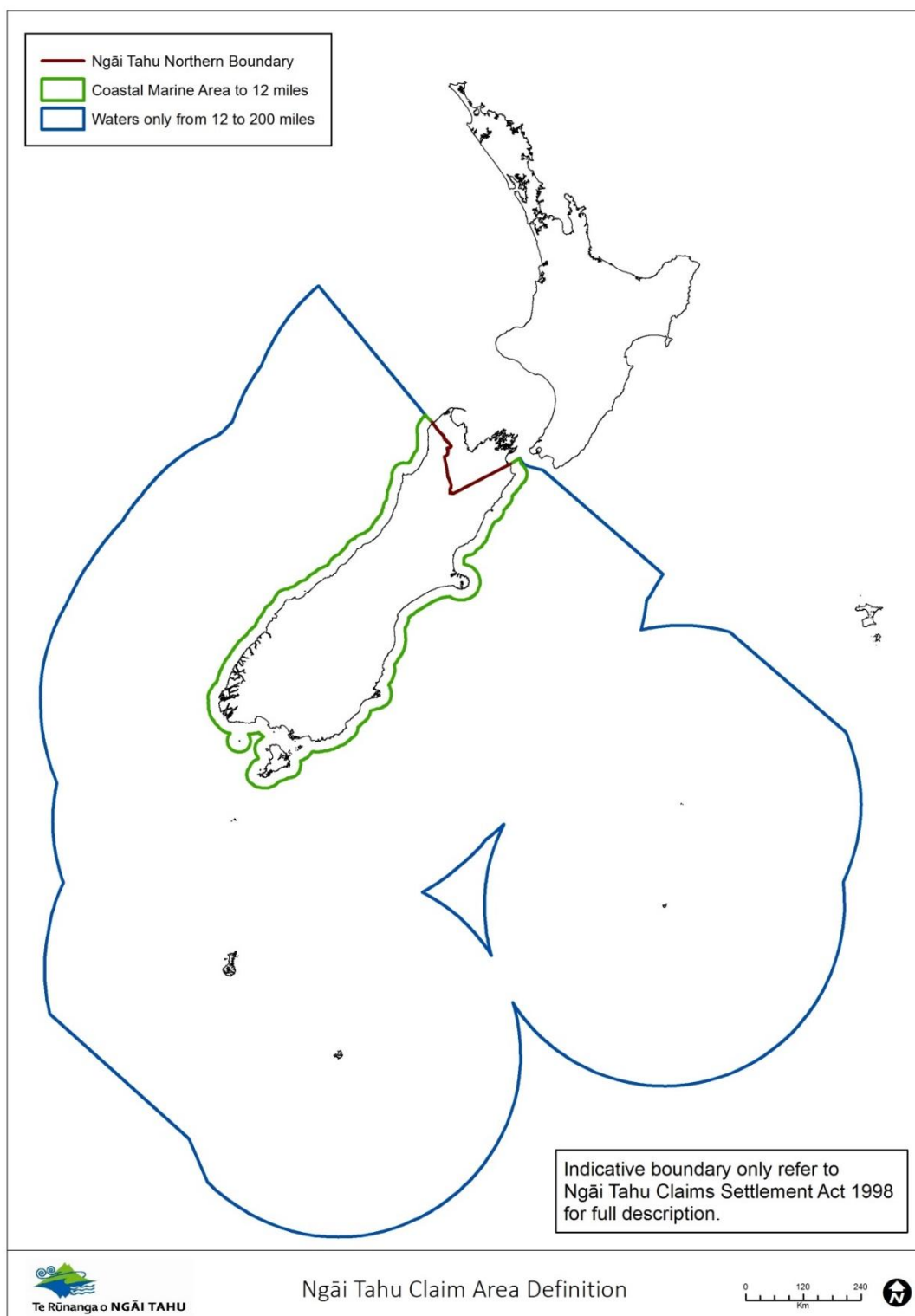
Appendix Two – Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu

Appendix three –Statutory Acknowledgement

Appendix four – Taonga Species Schedule 97 and 98

Cc Aoraki Environmental Consultancy, Whitoria, Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd

APPENDIX ONE: NGĀI TAHU TAKIWĀ



APPENDIX TWO: TEXT OF CROWN APOLOGY

The following is text of the Crown apology contained in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Part One – Apology by the Crown to Ngāi Tahu

Section 5: Text in Māori

The text of the apology in Māori is as follows:

1. Kei te mōhio te Karauna i te tino roa o ngā tūpuna o Ngāi Tahu e totohe ana kia utu mai rātou e te Karauna—tata atu ki 150 ngā tau i puta ai tēnei pēpeha a Ngāi Tahu arā: “He mahi kai tākata, he mahi kai hoaka”. Nā te whai mahara o ngā tūpuna o Ngāi Tahu ki ngā āhuatanga o ngā kawenga a te Karauna i kawea ai e Matiaha Tiramōrehu tana petihana ki a Kuini Wikitoria i te tau 1857. I tuhia e Tiramōrehu tana petihana arā: ‘Koia nei te whakahau a tōu aroha i whiua e koe ki runga i ēnei kāwana... tērā kia whakakotahitia te ture, kia whakakotahitia ngā whakahau, kia ōrite ngā āhuatanga mō te kiri mā kia rite ki tō te kiri waitutu, me te whakatakoto i te aroha o tōu ngākau pai ki runga i te iwi Māori kia noho ngākau pai tonu ai rātou me te mau mahara tonu ki te mana o tōu ingoa.’ Nā konei te Karauna i whakaae ai tērā, te taumaha o ngā mahi a ngā tūpuna o Ngāi Tahu, nā rēira i tū whakaiti atu ai i nāiane i mua i ā rātou mokopuna.
2. E whakaae ana te Karauna ki tōna tino hēanga, tērā i takakino tāruaruatia e ia ngā kaupapa o te Tiriti o Waitangi i roto i āna hokonga mai i ngā whenua o Ngāi Tahu. Tēnā, ka whakaae anō te Karauna tērā i roto i ngā āhuatanga i takoto ki roto i ngā pukapuka āherenga whakaatu i aua hokonga mai, kāore te Karauna i whai whakaaro ki tāna hoa nā rāua rā i haina te Tiriti, kāore hoki ia i whai whakaaro ki te wehe ake i ētahi whenua hei whai oranga tinana, whai oranga ngākau rānei mō Ngāi Tahu.
3. E whakaae ana te Karauna tērā, i roto i tāna takakino i te wāhanga tuarua o te Tiriti, kāore ia i whai whakaaro ki te manaaki, ki te tiaki rānei i ngā mauanga whenua a Ngāi Tahu me ngā tino taonga i hiahia a Ngāi Tahu ki te pupuri.
4. E mōhio ana te Karauna tērā, kāore ia i whai whakaaro ki a Ngāi Tahu i runga i te ngākau pono o roto i ngā tikanga i pūtaka mai i te mana o te Karauna. Nā tāua whakaaro kore a te Karauna i puaki mai ai tēnei pēpeha a Ngāi Tahu: “Te Hapa o Niu Tīreni”. E mōhio ana te Karauna i tāna hē ki te kaipono i ngā āhuatanga whai oranga mō Ngāi Tahu i noho pōhara noa ai te iwi ia whakatupuranga heke iho. Te whakatauākī i pūtaka mai i aua āhuatanga: “Te mate o te iwi”.
5. E whakaae ana te Karauna tērā, mai rāno te piri pono o Ngāi Tahu ki te Karauna me te kawa pono a te iwi i ā rātou kawenga i raro i te Tiriti o Waitangi, pērā anō tō rātou piri atu ki raro i te Hoko Whitu a Tū i ngā wā o ngā pakanga nunui o te ao. E tino mihi ana te Karauna ki a Ngāi Tahu mō tōna ngākau pono mō te koha hoki a te iwi o Ngāi Tahu ki te katoa o Aotearoa.

6. E whakapuaki atu ana te Karauna ki te iwi whānui o Ngāi Tahu i te hōhonu o te āwhitu a te Karauna mō ngā mamaetanga, mō ngā whakawhiringa i pūtake mai nō roto i ngā takakino a te Karauna i takaongetia ai a Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Ewhakaae ana te Karauna tērā, aua mamaetanga me ngā whakawhiringa hoki i hua mai nō roto i ngā takakino a te Karauna, arā, kāore te Karauna i whai i ngā tohutohu a ngā pukapuka ā-herenga i tōna hokonga mai i ngā whenua o Ngāi Tahu, kāore hoki te Karauna i wehe ake kia rawaka he whenua mō te iwi, hei whakahaere mā rātou i ngā āhuatanga e whai oranga ai rātou, kāore hoki te Karauna i hanga i tētahi tikanga e maru motuhake ai te mana o Ngāi Tahu ki runga i ā rātou pounamu me ērā atu tāonga i hiahia te iwi ki te pupuri. Kore rawa te Karauna i aro ake ki ngā aurere a Ngāi Tahu.
7. E whakapāha ana te Karauna ki a Ngāi Tahu mō tōna hēanga, tērā, kāore ia i whai whakaaro mō te rangatiratanga o Ngāi Tahu, ki te mana rānei o Ngāi Tahu ki runga i ōna whenua ā-rohe o Te Wai Pounamu, nā rēira, i runga i ngā whakaritenga me ngā herenga a Te Tiriti o Waitangi, ka whakaae te Karauna ko Ngāi Tahu Whānui anō te tāngata whenua hei pupuri i te rangatiratanga o roto i ōna takiwā.
8. E ai mō ngā iwi katoa o Aotearoa e hiahia ana te Karauna ki te whakamārie i ngā hara kua whākina ake nei—otirā, ērā e taea i nāiane i - i te mea kua āta tau ngā kōrero tūturu ki roto i te pukapuka ā-herenga whakaritenga i hainatia i te 21 o ngā rā o Whitu hei tīmatanga whai oranga i roto i te ao hōu o te mahinga tahi a te Karauna rāua ko Ngāi Tahu.

Section 6: Text in English

The text of the apology in English is as follows:

1. The Crown recognises the protracted labours of the Ngāi Tahu ancestors in pursuit of their claims for redress and compensation against the Crown for nearly 150 years, as alluded to in the Ngāi Tahu proverb 'He mahi kai takata, he mahi kai hoaka' ('It is work that consumes people, as greenstone consumes sandstone'). The Ngāi Tahu understanding of the Crown's responsibilities conveyed to Queen Victoria by Matiaha Tiramorehu in a petition in 1857, guided the Ngāi Tahu ancestors. Tiramorehu wrote:

“This was the command thy love laid upon these Governors ... that the law be made one, that the commandments be made one, that the nation be made one, that the white skin be made just equal with the dark skin, and to lay down the love of thy graciousness to the Māori that they dwell happily ... and remember the power of thy name.”
2. The Crown hereby acknowledges the work of the Ngāi Tahu ancestors and makes this apology to them and to their descendants.
3. The Crown acknowledges that it acted unconscionably and in repeated breach of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in its dealings with Ngāi Tahu in the purchases of Ngāi Tahu land. The Crown further acknowledges that in relation to the deeds of purchase it has failed in most material respects to honour its obligations to Ngāi Tahu as

its Treaty partner, while it also failed to set aside adequate lands for Ngāi Tahu's use, and to provide adequate economic and social resources for Ngāi Tahu.

4. The Crown acknowledges that, in breach of Article Two of the Treaty, it failed to preserve and protect Ngāi Tahu's use and ownership of such of their land and valued possessions as they wished to retain.
5. The Crown recognises that it has failed to act towards Ngāi Tahu reasonably and with the utmost good faith in a manner consistent with the honour of the Crown. That failure is referred to in the Ngāi Tahu saying 'Te Hapa o Niu Tirenī!' ('The unfulfilled promise of New Zealand'). The Crown further recognises that its failure always to act in good faith deprived Ngāi Tahu of the opportunity to develop and kept the tribe for several generations in a state of poverty, a state referred to in the proverb 'Te mate o te iwi' ('The malaise of the tribe').
6. The Crown recognises that Ngāi Tahu has been consistently loyal to the Crown, and that the tribe has honoured its obligations and responsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi and duties as citizens of the nation, especially, but not exclusively, in their active service in all of the major conflicts up to the present time to which New Zealand has sent troops. The Crown pays tribute to Ngāi Tahu's loyalty and to the contribution made by the tribe to the nation.
7. The Crown expresses its profound regret and apologises unreservedly to all members of Ngāi Tahu Whānui for the suffering and hardship caused to Ngāi Tahu, and for the harmful effects which resulted to the welfare, economy and development of Ngāi Tahu as a tribe. The Crown acknowledges that such suffering, hardship and harmful effects resulted from its failures to honour its obligations to Ngāi Tahu under the deeds of purchase whereby it acquired Ngāi Tahu lands, to set aside adequate lands for the tribe's use, to allow reasonable access to traditional sources of food, to protect Ngāi Tahu's rights to pounamu and such other valued possessions as the tribe wished to retain, or to remedy effectually Ngāi Tahu's grievances.
8. The Crown apologises to Ngāi Tahu for its past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries, and, in fulfilment of its Treaty obligations, the Crown recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui.
9. Accordingly, the Crown seeks on behalf of all New Zealanders to atone for these acknowledged injustices, so far as that is now possible, and, with the historical grievances finally settled as to matters set out in the Deed of Settlement signed on 21 November 1997, to begin the process of healing and to enter a new age of cooperation with Ngāi Tahu."

MANA WHENUA ADVICE

Project name	Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting Project Mahaanui job number – J8125		
1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Mahaanui Kurataiao		
*First name	Grace		
*Last name	King		
Postal address	226 Antigua Street Christchurch NZ 8011		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	Mahaanui.Admin@ngaitahu.iwi.nz		

1.0 Mana Whenua Statement

Ngāi Tahu holds and exercises rangatiratanga within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā and has done so since before the arrival of the Crown. The rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu resides within the Papatipu Rūnanga. The Crown and Parliament have recognised the enduring nature of that rangatiratanga through:

- Article II of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Te Tiriti);
- the 1997 Deed of Settlement (Deed of Settlement) between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown; and
- the 1998 Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act (NTCSA) in which Parliament endorsed and implemented the Deed of Settlement.

The contemporary structure of Ngāi Tahu is set down through the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 (TRoNT Act). Article II of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Te Tiriti), the TRoNT Act, Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act (NTCSA) 1998, and the 1997 Deed of Settlement (Deed of Settlement) between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown sets the requirements for recognition of tangata whenua in Canterbury.

As recorded in the Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu in the NTCSA, the Ngāi Tahu Settlement marked a turning point, and the beginning of a “new age of co-operation”. The Crown apologised for its “past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries” and confirmed that it “recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding

rangatiratanga within, the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui”. This Mana Whenua Advice Report is provided without prejudice to the High Court freshwater claim¹.

Each Papatipu Rūnanga has their own respective takiwā, and each is responsible for protecting the tribal interests in their respective takiwā, not only on their own behalf of their own hapū, but again, on behalf of the entire tribe. Under the mandate of Mahaanui Kurataiao, Te Taumutu Rūnanga holds mana whenua over the project’s location, as it is within their takiwā. We acknowledge that Ngāi Tuāhuriri Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua also

2.0 Recommendations and Comments

2.1. Ngāi Tahu Context

The hydroelectric power scheme interacts with a range of waterbodies that are significant to Ngāi Tahu and Te Taumutu Rūnanga. Whakamatau (Lake Coleridge) is a Statutory Acknowledgement Area, and the associated rivers are part of the Rakaia River catchment – a culturally, biologically, and nationally significant landscape. Whakamatau is featured across an important pounamu trail, linking the east coast with Te Tai Poutini.

Whakamatau was supported travellers and other settlements with plentiful mahinga kai, particularly tuna (eel), waterfowl and kiore (Polynesian rat). During the 1879 Smith-Nairn Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Ngāi Tahu land claims, Ngāi Tahu kaumātua recorded Whakamatau as a kāinga nohoanga and pā tūturu where kakapo, weka, and tuna were gathered. Many taonga species identified on the Taonga Species List and others that are not on the list can also be found at Whakamatau.

The ongoing health of and connection to the mahinga kai and indigenous biodiversity in this area is valued by Te Taumutu Rūnanga and is important to the continued connection between Ngāi Tahu whānui and the whenua.

2.2 Te Taumutu Rūnanga Involvement / Ongoing engagement

As expressed, Whakamatau (Lake Coleridge) is a significant landscape to Te Taumutu Rūnanga. Kaitiaki of Te Taumutu Rūnanga value a movement towards renewable energy production. By doing this, we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, our dependency on finite resources, and our inappropriate extraction of such resources. However, any interaction with and modification of natural resources such as wai Māori have the potential to implicate mana whenua values and must be managed appropriately.

The right for Māori to uphold kaitiakitanga is provided for by Te Titiri o Waitangi and the Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu. Kaitiakitanga is fundamental to the relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the environment. It is the intergenerational responsibility and right of tāngata whenua to take care of the environment and resources upon which we depend.

At this stage, kaitiaki of Te Taumutu Rūnanga do not have enough information to provide an assessment of mana whenua impacts and have identified various information and assessments that must be included in the substantive application. Te Taumutu Rūnanga asks that the project only be allowed to pass into the fast-track system if the detailed information is required as supporting evidence as without it, the impacts of the activity on mana whenua values such as (freshwater, indigenous biodiversity, sustainability of natural resources, mauri of Rakaia ecosystem, etc) cannot be considered. These requests can be found in the conditions across sections 2.1-2.3 of this report.

Te Taumutu Rūnanga support the applicants request for a three-year timeframe to lodge the substantive application. Te Taumutu Rūnanga must be engaged to work with the applicants on impact assessments and the development of mitigation measures in this time.

¹Tau & Ors v Attorney-General, HC Christchurch CIV 2020-409-534

Recommended conditions:

1. Te Taumutu Rūnanga requests that the recommended assessments detailed across sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this document are required for the applicant's substantive application.
2. Te Taumutu Rūnanga are interested in collaborating with Contact Energy Limited throughout the development of the substantive application, as invited by Contact Energy Limited. Opportunities for ongoing engagement may include:
 - a. Attending site visits.
 - b. Contributing to the baseline study with a mātauranga Māori monitoring perspective.
 - c. Involvement in ecological and wildlife assessments.
 - d. Involvement with Tuna transfers and fish passage.
 - e. Reviewing technical information and providing pre-substantive-application advice at later stages.
 - f. Being a collaborate party in the development of consent conditions.
3. Te Taumutu Rūnanga must be provided the opportunity to develop a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA).

Comments:

1. Te Taumutu Rūnanga support the applicants request for a three-year timeframe to lodge the substantive application.
2. Could the applicant please provide details on the ongoing maintenance and monitoring work that will be undertaken if consents are granted.

2.3 Wai Māori and Tāne Mahuta

Water is a significant cultural resource that connects Ngāi Tahu to the landscape and the culture and traditions of the tūpuna. Water is a taonga and a life giver of all things, there is a collective responsibility to protect and enhance the mauri of this taonga. Objective 1 in section 5.3 of the Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan states the water management must provide for the taonga status of water. The relationship of Māori to freshwater is identified as a matter of national importance.

Additionally, restoring indigenous biodiversity, both flora and fauna, is one of the most important challenges for the future management in the takiwā. A healthy economy relies on a healthy environment. Indigenous biodiversity, along with air, water and soil, are taonga; they are the region's natural capital, providing a suite of essential ecosystem services. It is vital to the future of Ngāi Tahu to ensure that sufficient natural resources continue to be available to provide places and experiences for young Ngāi Tahu to practice the activities of their tūpuna, learn the skills used to manage the environment, know their cultural values, and take pride in the knowledge that their elders have retained to pass along to them. The importance of indigenous biodiversity to mahinga kai is reflected in tāngata whenua perspectives on restoration: that restoration is about restoring the mauri of land and places and about restoring the relationship of Ngāi Tahu to these places.

We understand that the Coleridge Hydro Electric Power Scheme interacts with Wai Māori in a variety of ways including: the redirection and take of water from surrounding rivers and streams, the capture and holding of water within the lake, and the use of water to create electricity, and the eventual discharge of water to the Rakaia River. In turn, this will impact the habitat, flora and fauna, and mahinga kai that are supported by this catchment. Te Taumutu Rūnanga reflect that since beginning operation in 1914, the Coleridge Hydro Electric Power Scheme has significantly altered the landscape

and flow of water in ways that has caused ongoing impacts to mana whenua and kaitiaki values that have not been addressed to date.

Various assessments must be completed that determine the impacts of the facility on Wai Māori and Indigenous Biodiversity. Consideration must be given to climate change and the implications that future environmental conditions may have on water availability and the mauri of the wai. Mitigations must ensure that the continued operation of this facility does not exacerbate any negative consequences on the freshwater ecosystems that it interacts with. Additionally, Te Taumutu Rūnanga ask that the Minister require an assessment against the Ngāi Tahu Treaty Settlement and the Rakaia Water Conservation Order. The Rakaia Water Conservation Order recognises and the outstanding ecological properties of the river and provides a level of environmental protection. The Applicant should ensure that ongoing operation still aligns with the intentions of the Order and of the 2013 amendment allowances.

We wish to raise concerns to comments in attachment 5. The applicant states endeavouring to use the Fast-Track system as it can minimise costs, timings, and complex consent conditions as compared to the RMA system. Te Taumutu Rūnanga do not support the Fast-Track system being used to avoid consent conditions necessary for environmental protections. In particular, we reference comments on flow restrictions being commonly imposed under RMA consents creating a loss to energy production and profit. While tāngata whenua recognise the need for energy production, resource use must be sustainable for the very long term and not driven purely by economics and short-term gains. The right to take and use water must be premised on the responsibility to protect water as a taonga resource. With regard to this example, minimum flow restrictions are important mitigations to protect the mauri of the wai, the connectivity of lowland water bodies, the habitat of aquatic biodiversity and to reduce contamination issues - especially during times where climate change is an ever growing issue.

Recommended conditions:

1. The applicant must provide the following:
 - a. Aquatic and terrestrial ecology assessments, including impacts on native fish and their ongoing management in the lake and rivers.
 - b. Impacts on water quality and quantity. Information on the waterways that water is taken / diverted from – impacts of this activity now and under projected climate scenarios, particular assessment on minim flows.
 - c. Assessments addressing sedimentation, hydrology, and river geomorphology.
 - d. Climate change assessment.
3. Te Taumutu Rūnanga ask that the Minister require an assessment against the Ngāi Tahu Treaty Settlement and the Rakaia Water Conservation Order.

Comments:

1. The fast-track system must not be used to avoid consent conditions that provide for environmental protection.

3.0 Rūnanga – Affected Party or Not

In terms of this response, Mahaanui Kurataiao has attempted to address matters of fundamental concern to Te Taumutu Rūnanga. The fact that Mahaanui Kurataiao has not commented on any particular matter should not be taken as support thereof and Te Taumutu Rūnanga reserves the right to comment on additional matters in a future stage of engagement or when more information becomes available.

The Kaitiaki representatives of Te Taumutu Rūnanga have reviewed this application and provided the recommendations outlined in Section 2.0 to align this proposal more closely with the provisions in the Mahaanui IMP.

Te Taumutu Rūnanga recommend that further information is required of the applicant in order for the impacts of the activity to be accurately addressed. If any of this is not possible however, Te Taumutu Rūnanga recommends that this proposal is withdrawn from the Fast Track process.



TO: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RE: COLERIDGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER SCHEME RECONSENTING - REFERRAL
APPLICATION UNDER THE FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024
DATE: 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

INTRODUCTION

Ngāi Tūāhuriri is a principal hapū of Ngāi Tahu, acknowledged in Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (Settlement Act). The takiwā of the hapū is centered at Tuahiwi, and extends from Hurunui to Hakatere, sharing an interest with Arowhenua Rūnanga northwards to Rakaia, and thence inland to the Main Divide. This is articulated in, and discernible from, the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Declaration of Membership) Order 2001 (formerly Schedule 1 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996). Within this area, Ngāi Tūāhuriri has maintained noho tūturu (ahi kā), meaning the tribe's 'fires' have been kept burning and that they actively exercise rangatiratanga.

Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga has mandated Whitiora Centre Limited (Whitiora) to provide advice and act on its behalf in respect of environmental policy, planning, and strategy matters. This includes proposals being referred to or processed as a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).

PROPOSAL

Contact Energy Limited (Contact) owns and operates the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme (Coleridge HEPS or Scheme). Contact is seeking to renew the suite of approvals required for the continued operation and maintenance of the Scheme. Contact is proposing that the Scheme "be operated on similar terms and conditions as it is currently subject to".

In addition to generating electricity from the water stored in Lake Coleridge, the Scheme facilitates the supply of stored water (from which electricity has been generated) to local dairy farming schemes using the Rakaia River for conveyance.



PRIOR ENGAGEMENT

The Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme Reconsenting (“the Project”) lies within the takiwā of Ngāi Tūāhuriri. There is a long history of engagement between Ngāi Tūāhuriri and the operators of the Scheme.

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga was notified (via Whitiora) of Contact's intention to lodge a referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) on 1 April 2026.

Whitiora expect robust ongoing engagement with the applicant on this kaupapa. The reconsenting of infrastructure such as this is of the utmost significance. The impacts of the Scheme on Whakamatau/Lake Coleridge and the Rakaia catchment will be felt for generations and therefore any decisions relating to it should not be made lightly.

The nature of Whitiora's engagement with Contact shall be agreed upon between the two parties. We expect that it shall include site visit(s), the ability to inform scopes of work for technical reports and undertaking monitoring that will inform the substantive application.

CULTURAL VALUES

Whakamatau/Lake Coleridge is featured in the ‘Ngā Puna Roimata o Takahata’ tradition as one of the lakes dug by the rangatira Rakaihautu¹. This is one of the oldest Ngāi Tahu traditions and the association with Whakamatau is an indication of the lake’s significance.

Mountain-fed lakes, such as Whakamatau, are of particular importance because they support fish populations and are a source of many resources, such as eel and waterfowl². Whakamatau was recorded by Ngāi Tahu kaumatua as a kāinga nohoanga and pā tūturu during the Nairn Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Ngāi Tahu land claims³. Ara tāwhiri paths run around the lake, showing its key position within the comprehensive Ngāi Tahu takiwā. Ngāi Tahu linked hapū and sites across Canterbury and over Te Tai Poutini/Te Kaitiaki. These facts are

¹ Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, s 6, New Zealand Legislation, accessed at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1998/97/en/latest/sections/DLM431309/>

² Te Maire Tau, Anake Goodall, David Palmer and Rakihia Tau (1992) *Ngāi Tahu Resource Management Strategy for the Canterbury Region*. Aoraki Press, Christchurch, p 10.

³ Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (n.d.) *Ngāi Tahu 1880 Map*. Kā Hurihanga Ngāi Tahu Project. Available at: <https://kahurumanu.co.nz/map-stories/ngai-tahu-1880-map/> (accessed 26 June 2026).



listed to express the significance of Whakamatai as a hub of cultural activity, resource gathering, trade and travel for Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

The construction of the Coleridge Hydro-electric Power Scheme has permanently changed the way that water moves through the Whakamatai/Lake Coleridge and Rakaia River catchments. This has impacted the ability of Ngāi Tūāhuriri to access traditional foods and resources and contributes to the on-going and cumulative erosion of Ngāi Tūāhuriri culture and identity within its takiwā.

SETTLEMENT

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (NTCSA) records the scope, detail, and nature of the Crown's settlement with Ngāi Tahu. These included:

- An apology
- The return of Aoraki to Ngāi Tahu
- A wide range of mechanisms for economic redress
- A wide range of mechanisms for recognition of mana
- Recognition of, and provision for mahinga kai

The Apology

The Crown's apology recognised its repeated breaches of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in its purchases of Ngāi Tahu land. This included acknowledgement that the Crown had failed to preserve and protect Ngāi Tahu's use and ownership of such land and valued possessions that they wished to retain; as well as "past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana within the South Island lands within its boundaries."⁴

Within the apology, the Crown recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of the South Island rangatiratanga within, the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. The apology committed the Crown to enter a new age of co-operation with Ngāi Tahu.

MECHANISMS FOR RECOGNISING MANA

The importance of Whakamatai/Lake Coleridge and the Rakaia River catchments were recognised in the NTCSA. The following mechanisms are relevant to the project:

⁴ S6 Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998



Statutory Acknowledgement

Regard should be given to Statutory Acknowledgements when considering this referral application. Whakamatai/Lake Coleridge is recognised in Schedule 101 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 as a Statutory Acknowledgement⁵. This is an acknowledgement by the Crown of the significant cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association of Whakamatai to Ngāi Tahu, and Ngāi Tūāhuriri specifically as mana whenua.

Special Association with Taonga Species

The NTCSA also identifies and acknowledges a list of taonga species in Schedule 97 of the Act. This is an acknowledgement of the cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association of taonga species to Ngāi Tahu, and Ngāi Tūāhuriri as mana whenua.

Nohoanga

Under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, two Nohoanga Entitlements (Rakaia River (No. 1) and Rakaia River (No. 2)) were granted to the Rakaia River. Nohohanga provide whānau members with access to land adjoining significant waterways, from which they can gather kai and resources. It is essential that the water that flows from Whakamatai/Lake Coleridge can sustain adequate flows in the Rakaia River to support the health of the river and mahinga kai species. If not, this can affect the ability of nohoanga to function as intended.

PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS OF NGĀI TŪĀHURIRI

A foundation of Ngāi Tūāhuriri environmental management is ki uta ki tai.

Ki uta ki tai represents a holistic view of the environment and is concerned with the integrity and functioning of all elements of the natural / physical world (including the atmosphere, ground and coastal), land, biodiversity, and air.

⁵ *Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998*, sch 78, "Statutory acknowledgement of Whakamatai (Lake Coleridge)", <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1998/97/en/latest/sections/DLM431309/> (last updated 11 September 2026).



It applies to the whole of the environment within a catchment (i.e., it is not limited to the geographic limits of a waterway nor is it limited to just water). It concerns seasonality of all those component elements in the environment and change over time. It is concerned with the interconnectedness of all elements within a catchment, including the relationship of the natural elements to people.

Accordingly, the interests and priorities of Ngāi Tūāhuriri with respect to this proposal are wide-ranging and reflect a concern that how the water in Whakamatau/Lake Coleridge is managed and used will have effects and impacts, not only on the lake and its immediate environs, but on downstream resources.

These interests and priorities will include, but not be limited to:

- Impacts on the lake margin including its geomorphology, treatment of riparian margins and associated habitats.
- Management of water levels, takes and discharges and consequential effects on the quality and quantity of water within the lake and any water bodies hydraulically connected to the lake, including springs or wetlands.
- Proposed earthworks and sediment control/management,
- The scale and location, including encroachment on or into the water, from structures, buildings or man-made, physical features formed by earthworks,
- Any upgrading of infrastructure capacity,
- Downstream effects on water bodies, ecosystems, and habitats,
- Effects on aquatic ecology, particularly fish (see more detailed comments below)
- Public accessibility to the lake
- The availability and efficient use of water
- Responsiveness to climate change and a commitment to adaptive management to prevent water quantity or quality diminish.
- Any requirements for fill and borrow pits.

Fish Habitat and Passage

A key concern with the Lake Coleridge Hydro Scheme is the protection of fish habitat and protection.



Whakamatau/Lake Coleridge is home to taonga species and has a long history of mahinga kai. The protection of the species and ecosystem within the catchment is therefore of the utmost significance to Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

The re-consenting of the Hydro scheme provides an opportunity to assess the current fish passage provisions and assess where opportunities for upgrades and improvements are possible. A key priority for Ngāi Tūāhuriri has always been to enhance the populations of long fin eel within the lake, including environmental conditions that enable the long fin eel to complete its life cycle within the Rakaia/Whakamatau catchment⁶.

ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

The referral application does not contain much detail on the proposed substantive application. If the applicant is successful in their referral application, Whitiora expects Contact to agree an engagement protocol that will address:

- The opportunity to inform the scope of any technical investigations or monitoring required to inform the Substantive application.
- Information sharing including technical reports, draft AEEs, and conditions
- The opportunity to review and inform management plans for the construction and operation of the facility.
- The opportunity to inform you of the scope and nature of longer-term monitoring programmes.
- The sharing of long-term monitoring results

CONTACT DETAILS

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⁶Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd (2013) *Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Mahaanui* (2013, Section 6.12: Rakaia/Whakamatau Catchment), p344.