

18<sup>th</sup> October 2011



Westland District Council  
Private Bag 704  
HOKITIKA 7842  
Attention: Martin Kennedy

and

West Coast Regional Council  
PO Box 66  
Greymouth  
Attention: Rachel Clark

Dear Rachel and Martin,

**KANIERE FORKS AND McKAYS CREEK HEPS RECONSENTING APPLICATION**

Further to your request for further information dated 19 September 2011, we respond to each request in the tables below.

Please note that responses to questions regarding landscape are being addressed separately by Ms Mary Buckland. Responses to questions regarding generation capacity are being addressed by Mr Basil Sharp. This information will be provided on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Accordingly, please see below TrustPower Limited's summary of responses. In addition, we attached the following documents:

- Attachment A** TrustPower Limited's Joint Section 92 Response
- Attachment B** Lakeshore Erosion Assessment from Mr Martin Single of Shore Processes and Management Limited
- Attachment C** Aquatic Ecology Report from Ryder Consulting
- Attachment D** Recreation Assessment from Mr Rob Greenaway of Rob Greenaway and Associates
- Attachment E** Terrestrial Ecology Assessment from Scott Hooson of Boffa Miskell Limited

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 021 796 670

Yours faithfully

PLANIT R W BATTY & ASSOCIATES LTD

**Matt Bonis**

**ASSOCIATE**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Bonis", written over a horizontal line.

Our ref.: 12 668

### West Coast Regional Council Further Information Request (RMA – s.92)

Matter	Reason	Information Required	TrustPower's Response
1. Gravel Extraction	Gravel is to be extracted from the Kaniere River during the construction / enhancement works	<p>a) Clearly indicate on an aerial photograph or map the location(s) for the gravel extraction</p> <p>b) Give an indication of the amount of gravel to be extracted and if it is from the bed</p> <p>c) Give an indication of the timing and duration of the gravel extraction</p>	<p>a) Section 2.2 of the Feasibility and Scoping Report for Scheme Reconsenting describes where gravel will need to be extracted. There is only one location and this is reproduced below for clarity.</p> <p><i>"The lake junction with the existing channel, upstream of the gates, will need maintenance dredging with an excavator to remove the bank of sediment built-up between the lake and the channel."</i></p> <p>The area where gravel is to be removed, to keep the intake clear, is shown in Figure KNF-001 contained in Appendix 1 in <b>Attachment A</b> to this document.</p> <p>b) Consistent with current maintenance activities undertaken in respect of the Scheme, a volume of approximately 50 cubic metres needs removing on average once every 10 years. The gravel is extracted from below lake level using an excavator.</p> <p>c) The gravel removal will be done during construction works associated with the Scheme and approximately once every 10 years thereafter. The works will take approximately three days.</p>
2. Lake levels	Lake levels will occur at lower levels for a longer period of time	<p>a) Please detail how quickly lake levels are likely to rise and fall and any potential effects as a result and mitigation proposed</p> <p>b) How will lower water levels affect lake bed</p>	<p>a) As stated in the AEE report "Kaniere Forks and McKay's Creek Power Schemes Re-consenting: Hydrological Study (19 November 2010) section 6.2.2, page 32 and Figure 2.4, Mr Palmer has advised that due to the relatively large volume of the lake (compared to outflows), that even with no inflows to the lake and a maximum outflow of 8 cumecs, a maximum daily drawdown of less than 0.05m could be achieved. This represents an increase in 0.15m/day drawdown as a result of the increase of abstraction by 2 cumecs. Median daily level change for both the existing and enhanced Scheme is 0.02m, with 95% of these daily changes for both below 0.10m. It is Mr Palmer's opinion that the range and timing of level changes will therefore remain within the limits as previously observed for the lake. Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>b) Mr Single has stated that it is unlikely that there will be material</p>

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		<p>and bank stability and erosion of the lake foreshore / bed and banks. An assessment is required on the potential for beach slumping to occur and the potential effects and mitigation. How well will beaches cope with the lake level changes and how quickly can they reform?</p> <p>c) How will regular lake level changes affect aquatic vegetation species particularly in regard to species composition and distribution. How will the biomass of vegetation be affected?</p> <p>d) The potential effects and mitigation for impacts on freshwater mussels due to changing lake levels.</p>	<p>erosion or change to the physical environment. However, under both the enhanced and the seasonally limited scenarios, lakebed that is seldom exposed at present will be exposed to wave processes and open air at more regular intervals for fine sediments to dry out and potentially be moved by wind and / or wave action. Mr Single advises that the shore will adjust and after time the shore and lakebed will be similar in character to its current state, but with a wider range of exposed beach. The effect would be of a lesser magnitude under the seasonally adjusted scenario. Refer <b>Attachment B</b>.</p> <p>c) Ryder Consulting has advised that any changes to the lake water level will be relatively subtle and within the typical variations found in other West Coast lakes. The clarity, nutrient status, temperature and lake bed substrate will not change as a result of the proposal. Turf mound communities may extend their range in proportion to the change in lake level range. The upper shoreline of the lake supports only species capable of withstanding wave action and occasional dewatering and hence is already a community adapted to a relatively harsh physical environment. Refer <b>Attachment C</b>.</p> <p>d) Ryder Consulting has advised that it is likely that the fresh water mussels will have already adjusted their position on the lake bed to allow for annual or more frequent lowering of the lake levels and to avoid the effects of the waves. Any changes to the lake levels will be reflected in the mussel population altering their vertical distribution on the lake bed. Issues such as lake clarity and plankton composition will not be affected and so food availability to mussels will not be affected. Refer <b>Attachment D</b>.</p>
3. Recreational effects and mitigation	A large number of recreational activities and sporting events occur on the lake and its surrounds.	a) Sufficient information and proposed mitigation measures have not been provided for the potential adverse effects on recreational users of the lake and river. In particular an assessment on the effects and mitigation for the water skiing course, boating and fishing and events such as boat races, skiing and	a) Mr Greenaway has provided a detailed assessment of the potential adverse effects of the proposal on recreational uses of the lake, river and surrounding environment. Mr Greenaway has identified that the proposed scheme may result in a minor loss of amenity for people using the lake for boating, swimming, fishing, skiing and other recreational activities. In response to these effects, TrustPower proposes a number of mitigation measures including

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		<p>fishing competitions.</p> <p>b) An assessment of the loss of the natural experience and variety to be experienced when walking and biking the old track versus the wider and flatter new track and the closure of the track during construction works. Also comment on the proposal for the area to be incorporated into the national cycleway project.</p> <p>c) Potential mitigation for infrastructure such as boat ramps and jetties becoming unstable due to lower lake levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements to boat ramps at Hans Bay and Sunny Bight;</li> <li>• Hazards surveys;</li> <li>• Improvement to the jetty at Hans Bay; and</li> <li>• The construction of any swimming pontoon(s) in consultation with lake users.</li> </ul> <p>b) Mr Greenaway has provided a detailed assessment of the changes to the Lake Kaniere Water Race track likely to result from the proposal. The redeveloped track will result in a change to the amenity values of the setting of the track, however this will change over time. The construction of a track from Ward Road to Lake Kaniere on the south side of the Main Road will provide an alternative access route during the construction period and create a new local cycling and walking opportunity. Further, the development will result in a track standard that is suitable for the Westland Wilderness Trail. Refer <b>Attachment D</b>.</p> <p>c) The minimum consented lake level will not change and the problems with access at low lake levels have existed for many years. The boat ramps and jetties were installed to cater for the existing lake levels.</p> <p>From TrustPower's own observations, it appears that access from the existing boat ramps and jetties begins to be a problem when the lake level is below about 0.2m Local Datum (0.4m above the minimum consented level).</p> <p>Mr Palmer's hydrology report shows that, over the past 8 years, the lake level has been below 0.2m Local Datum 2% of the time (7 days per year on average) within the existing operating regime. During the summer period the lake is below 0.2m for less than 1% of the time.</p> <p>The proposed Scheme does not alter the minimum consented lake level. Appendix 2 of <b>Attachment A</b> details a seasonal operating regime now proposed, as developed by Mr Palmer. This report shows that the lake level would be below 0.2m 1.6% of the time over the full year with the proposed seasonal</p>

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			<p>operating regime.</p> <p>During the most popular summer months, the lake level will be below 0.2m for less than 1% of the time, which is the same as what currently occurs for that time period. This is based on applying seasonal limits to the historical inflow / lake level data. The maximum seasonal limits for summer would permit operation below 0.1 m for 10% of the time.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, TrustPower has investigated how access to boat ramps and jetties can be enhanced. Details of the options to enhance the boat ramp access are provided in Appendix 3 to <b>Attachment A</b> of this document. It has been conservatively assumed that consent for the proposed boat ramp extensions could breach Rules 16 and 36 of the Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan and accordingly consent will be applied for.</p> <p>The proposed options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To extend Sunny Bight Boat Ramp by 4m, enabling it to be used over an additional 0.4m of lake range;</li> <li>• Repair the scour hole at the end of Hans Bay boat ramp and provide some armouring at the end of it to protect it. This will also provide some degree of comfort if a trailer were to go past the end of the ramp (currently it would fall into the scour hole); and</li> <li>• Provide an access ladder to the jetty at Hans Bay.</li> </ul>
4. Safety issues	Lower lake levels could expose hazards that did not exist at the existing operational lake levels.	<p>a) An assessment of the potential effects and mitigation against increased risks to swimmers from changes in lake depth.</p> <p>b) Potential effects and mitigation for exposed hazards such as rocks and logs for boating and skiing.</p>	<p>a) Mr Greenaway has provided an assessment of the potential safety effects for swimming in the lake. Mr Greenaway considers that maintaining lake levels at the 0.2m mark for a comparable time to the existing situation (during the summer months) will cover most of the weedy areas and maintain amenity. Further, Mr Greenaway notes that many hazards that arise at low levels will be similar to those hazards experience currently. Refer <b>Attachment D</b>.</p> <p>b) Mr Greenaway states that the revised seasonal operating regimes will remove changes to the frequency of very low lake levels below 0.2m during the summer months and therefore</p>

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			<p>there should be no change to the likelihood of a boat or skier striking a hazard that would be a risk at those levels during this period. In response to the potential adverse effects on the recreational infrastructure around the lake, TrustPower proposes a number of mitigation measures as outlined in Section 3(a) above. Refer <b>Attachment D</b>.</p>
<p>5. Natural features / landscapes</p>	<p>Although the lake is not identified as an outstanding natural feature/landscape in the Proposed Regional Land or Riverbed Management Plan or the Proposed Land and Water Plan there are criteria for assessment in the West Coast Regional Policy Statement.</p>	<p>a) An assessment of the lake in its current state compared with its altered state (lower lake levels) with respect to the criteria specified in Policy 9.1 of the West Coast Regional Policy Statement.</p>	<p>a) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p>
<p>6. Hokitika community water supply</p>	<p>The lake levels will be lower for longer periods of time and operating just above the community water supply intake</p>	<p>a) Detail any effects the increased water take will have on the Hokitika community water supply. In particular make comment on the National Environmental Standard for Drinking water.</p> <p>b) Details of any cumulative effects from the 2 takes particularly given the recent increase in take for the Hokitika water</p>	<p>a) Mr Shelton has advised that the likely depth of the Hokitika water supply level is at least 1.8m below the lake minimum operating level. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed change to the operating regime will not have any material impact on the stability or safety of the Hokitika water supply intake. As outlined by Ryder Consulting (<b>Attachment C</b>) and Mr Hosson (<b>Attachment E</b>) it is considered that any potential effects of the Scheme on the aquatic ecology and riparian wetland ecology will be negligible. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed increased water take will be in accordance with the National Environmental Standard (NES) for Drinking Water. Further comment regarding the NES is provided in question 13 below.</p> <p>b) Mr Palmer has advised that the cumulative effect on Lake Kaniere levels of increasing the Westland District Council take from the lake by a constant 0.07cumecs over the year was</p>

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		supply.	<p>assessed and the net effect was to reduce mean lake levels by 11mm and median levels by 15mm over the 2002 to 2008 period. Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>Ryder Consulting has assessed the ecological effects of the proposed reduction to be negligible and almost impossible to measure. Dr Ryder advises that such a subtle change is well within natural variation and the vertical range at which aquatic species are found in the lake is typically well in excess of a metre for most species. Refer <b>Attachment C</b>.</p> <p>Mr Hooson has reviewed the cumulative change and states that the effect of this change on the terrestrial ecological values, including the wetlands on the margin of Lake Kanieri and the lake's water birds, will be negligible. Refer <b>Attachment E</b>.</p>
7. Other local water supplies	Many of the houses surrounding Lake Kanieri have water supplies either directly from the lake or from groundwater.	a) Assessment of any potential effects and/or mitigation that may be required for these water supplies.	a) TrustPower is currently investigating this matter and will address the issue of any impact at the hearing.
8. Wetlands	A number of mature wetlands surround Lake Kanieri	a) Assessment of the effect of lower lake levels on those wetlands, how effects may be monitored for and any potential mitigation measures.	a) Mr Hooson has stated that the potential effects of lower lake levels are detailed in Section 8.1.3 of the Terrestrial Ecology and Avifauna Assessment Report lodged with the AEE. That assessment concluded that the operation of the enhanced scheme is not expected to have any significant adverse effects on the wetland of Lake Kanieri and that the significance of the predicted effect does not warrant wetland monitoring or mitigation. Refer <b>Attachment C</b> .
9. Salmon and trout	Juvenile trout and salmon have been released into Lake Kanieri for fishing purposes	a) Confirmation that there will be sufficient water in the Kanieri River for Salmon in particular to migrate to the ocean. How will the scheme affect the habitat and migration of trout and salmon and how can this be mitigated for?	a) Ryder Consulting have advised that out migration of juvenile trout and salmon for the lake will be affected to a minor extent due to the enhanced scheme drawing more water away from sections of the Kanieri River, resulting in some risk to fish mortality as they pass through the Scheme's turbines. Currently, the McKays weir creates a barrier to upstream migration. While the residual flow could compromise the passage of very large salmonids, it will continue to maintain passage for a large range

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			<p>of salmonid life stages and high flows will continue to occur from time to time enabling passage for large adults.</p> <p>Further, TrustPower and Fish and Game are in discussions and working towards an agreement to provide a Fishery Enhancement Programme for Lake Kaniere, in an effort to address Fish and Game's concerns relating to the salmonid fisheries, including fish passage. Refer <b>Attachment C</b>.</p>
10. Alternatives	Further discussion on alternatives required	a) Provide a detailed discussion on what other alternatives to the enhancements were considered and reasons for their rejection. Are there any other viable alternatives or compromises that could be made? In particular, what consideration was given to increasing the height of the Lake Kaniere weir. If this was considered, then what are the reasons for this alternative being discarded?	<p>a) A number of alternatives were considered. These were generally based on determining the optimum flow for the Kaniere race enhancement.</p> <p>As outlined in Mr Palmer's report (<b>Attachment A</b>), the lake is fed by natural streams and rainfall and the water leaving it must be equal to the water entering minus minor losses (groundwater and evaporation). The long term hydrology records show that, on average, around 7 cumecs flows out through the Kaniere River. About 6 cumecs of this is passed by the existing gates, with 5 cumecs flowing down the river to the McKays intake and 1 cumec flowing down the existing Kaniere race. The remaining water flow represents the water spill over the top of the weir when lake levels are high.</p> <p>A range of canal sizes between 6 and 12 cumecs were conceptually considered for the Kaniere enhancement. The 6 cumec capacity would be approximately the same as the normal spill down the river and the overall outflow would be approximately that of the existing scheme (currently an average of about 5 cumecs flows from the control gates down the Kaniere river to the McKay's intake, and 1 cumec flows down the Kaniere race). However, in times of high rainfall or lake levels the river flows can be significantly greater than 6 cumecs (flows of 10-20 cumecs are common) and all the excess flow is not able to be utilised in generation at either the McKay's or Kaniere Forks Scheme.</p> <p>Often a flow of about twice the mean flow is used in conceptual engineering as the point for providing optimum additional capacity. For the Kainere enhancement this would</p>

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			<p>be about 12 cumecs, and this was set as the upper bound for the installed flow capacity.</p> <p>The main reasons that an 8 cumec capacity was selected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It lies between the mean flow and twice the mean flow available for generation;</li> <li>• 6 cumec capacity would not utilise the available flow efficiently and more of the flow would be spilt;</li> <li>• Increasing the race capacity to 8 cumecs increases the generation capability and improves scheme economics;</li> <li>• The existing control gates and approach pass this flow under the existing consents and the modifications required are therefore minimised;</li> <li>• The channel hydraulics to the existing control gates currently cater for this flow and no significant modification is required;</li> <li>• Increasing the flow to more than 8 cumecs is not practical as it would make the canal wider and necessitate removal of more vegetation. In a number of places (especially the first 600m of the race) the existing and proposed alignments traverse around the edge of the east bank of the Kaniere River. It would become significantly more difficult, expensive and disruptive if the capacity were to be increased above 8 cumecs;</li> <li>• The downstream McKays scheme is currently designed for a take of 5 cumecs from the Kaniere River. However, this scheme can be enhanced to about 8 cumecs by debottlenecking the existing infrastructure. If the Kaniere scheme is sized to the same level it will enable the full flow of water to be utilised twice.</li> </ul> <p>A recommendation by the Department of Conservation (DOC) suggested that increasing the operating range of Lake Kaniere by reducing the minimum lake level could have facilitated an increase in the minimum flows in the Kaniere River as more water would be stored that could be released as residual flow.</p> <p>However, feedback during the public consultation process came out very firmly against lowering the lake level. As a result of this, TrustPower has not pursued this option. The consented</p>

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			<p>minimum and maximum lake levels for the Kaniere Forks enhancement scheme therefore remain at the same level that the lake has operated at for the last 30 years.</p> <p>During design of the scheme a number of alignment options were considered for the enhanced Kaniere Forks Race. The historic, ecological and recreational value of the race is fully appreciated and significant work was done to minimise the impact of the enhanced scheme on the existing race, walkway, streams and native bush.</p> <p>After discussion with Mr Scott Hooson, a decision was made to align the new canal along the existing Westpower transmission line alignment as far as practicable. This was a key enhancement that minimises the impact on the existing race walkway, vegetation and valuable habitat.</p> <p>The existing transmission line alignment has been cleared completely over a width of 25m for much of the canal route. TrustPower approached Westpower with the concept of sharing the transmission corridor and the response has been positive.</p> <p>An additional enhancement in this area is relocating the Westpower transmission line underground along the canal route.</p>
11. Benefits of additional generation capacity	The proposal increases the generation capacity of the existing scheme results in additional/changes in the environmental effects.	a) Provide further detail on the benefits of the enhancements to the generation capacity of the schemes.	a) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2011.
12. Other environmental issues	Lower lake and river levels have the potential to	a) Provide and assessment on the potential for an increase in algal blooms as a result of lower water levels and higher	a) Ryder Consulting has stated that there is no risk of increasing algal blooms in Lake Kaniere as a result of the enhanced scheme as the environmental conditions that are favourable

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	adversely impact on the environment.	<p>temperatures in both the lake and river.</p> <p>b) Assessment of the potential for sediment build up on the bed of the Kaniere River as a result of lower flows and fewer flushing flows and any potential mitigation measures.</p> <p>c) Further information on the structural and/or management changes to be made that would improve fish and eel passage.</p>	<p>for bloom development will not be present. This is because the amount of water entering and exiting the lake will not change, nor will the land use in the surrounding catchment and other nutrient inputs change. Kaniere River already supports significant algal growths on occasion due to the nature of the lake outlet for the river. Refer <b>Attachment C</b>.</p> <p>b) Ryder Consulting notes that the Kaniere River carries low levels of fine sediment, with little evidence of deposit currently occurring. Further, the tributaries from within the Scheme footprint provide limited contribution to the Kaniere River. Therefore, it is anticipated that there is little likelihood of sediment deposition along the length of the river. Refer <b>Attachment C</b>.</p> <p>c) Ryder Consulting notes that fish passes for climbing native fish are used commonly around the country. Guidelines for native fish passes are provided in Table 4 of <b>Attachment C</b>.</p>
13. National Environmental Standards, Policy Statements and Regulations	A number of NES, NPS and regulations apply to this application.	a) Detail for how the enhanced schemes will meet the following: NES for Electricity Transmission Activities NES for Sources of Drinking Water NES for relating to Certain Air Pollutants, Dioxins and Other Toxics Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes Regulations NPS for Freshwater Management NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation	<p>a) The following assessment addresses the National Policy Statements and National Environment Standards as follows: <u>National Environment Standards</u> NESs are regulations issued under sections 43 and 44 of the RMA and apply nationally. This means that every regional, city or district council must enforce the same standard. In some instances, councils can impose stricter standards.</p> <p>In October 2004, the Government introduced the <b>National Environment Standard for Air Quality</b><sup>1</sup>. There NES contain five standards for Ambient Air Quality. The only standard of any relevance to this application is the NES for PM<sub>10</sub> as it relates to dust nuisance from spoil storage and extraction areas. This standard allows a maximum of one exceedance per year of a PM<sub>10</sub> concentration of 50µg/m<sup>3</sup> (24 hour average). Under the standard, regional councils have until 2013 to meet the ambient air quality standards within their regions. Councils must</p>

<sup>1</sup> Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (formerly called the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards Relating to Certain Air Pollutants, Dioxins, and Other Toxics) Regulations 2004

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			<p>not grant consent for discharges of PM<sub>10</sub> if the discharge is likely to cause an 'air shed' to exceed the standard.</p> <p>The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) has gazetted one airshed for the West Coast region at Reefton. The proposed site, at Kaniere is located outside of the gazetted airshed. It is therefore assumed that the concentration of PM<sub>10</sub> in the area of the proposed site does not currently exceed the standard. The discharge of PM<sub>10</sub> from the proposed gravel and extractions are expected to be small in scale, localised and to not result in the ambient concentration of PM<sub>10</sub> exceeding the NES.</p> <p>Accordingly, there is no reason for the WCRC to decline consent having regard to this national standard. These matters are also further subject to a proposed condition of consent relating to compliance with the provisions of the <b>Environmental Management Plan</b> and <b>Earthworks and Sediment Control Plan</b> so as to avoid the nuisance effects of dust trespass.</p> <p>The <b>NES for Sources of Human Drinking Water</b> came into effect on 20 June 2008. It requires regional councils to ensure that effects on drinking water sources are considered in decisions on resource consents and regional plans. Specifically, councils are required to: decline discharge or water permits that are likely to result in community drinking water becoming unsafe for human consumption following existing treatment; and place conditions on relevant resource consents requiring notification of drinking water suppliers if significant unintended events occur (i.e. spills) that may adversely impact on sources of human drinking water.</p> <p>In terms of the latter, it is understood that there are no sources of drinking water<sup>2</sup> hydrologically linked to the Kaniere River that directly relates to the scheme footprint, that is in-stream works are downstream of the domestic supply water take. As outlined</p>

<sup>2</sup> As being determined as a drinking-water supply that is recorded in the drinking-water register maintained by the chief executive of the Ministry of Health (the Director-General) under section 69J of the Health Act 1956 to which the NES applies.

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			<p>in the application, Lake Kaniere provides domestic supply for Hokitika domestic and commercial supplies, and in 2011 the WDC obtained consent for increasing its domestic take. Material provided within the application, and as outlined in the aquatic ecology response to this request (refer WCRC(2), (9) and (12), outlines that the biological conditions of the Lake will not be altered as a consequence of any increased take associated with either the Scheme, or the cumulative nature of the Scheme and the domestic take. Accordingly, there is no reason to decline consent having regard to this national standard.</p> <p>The <b>NES for Electricity Transmission Activities</b> came into effect on 14 January 2010. This NES sets out the national framework of permissions and requirements for activities on existing electricity transmission lines. Importantly, the NES only applies to existing high voltage electricity transmission lines. It does not apply to the construction of new transmission lines. The NES also does not apply to electricity distribution lines, being those lines that carry electricity from regional sub stations to electricity users. Accordingly, this NES is not applicable to the Scheme.</p> <p><u>Other Regulations</u></p> <p>The <b>Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010</b> require significant water takes to be measured and reported to help provide more accurate information about water demand and supply. It is considered that the respective flow and take monitoring conditions as these relate to 'Water Levels' for both the McKays enhancements (sites located downstream of McKays Weir Intake, and downstream of Kaniere Forks Power Station) and Kaniere enhancements (sites located downstream of Lake Kaniere outlet, and at Wards Road Bridge) are consistent with these regulations.</p> <p><u>National Policy Statements</u></p> <p>The <b>National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management</b> was gazetted on 12 May 2011 and takes effect from 1 July 2011. Accordingly, regard is to be had to the NPS as</p>

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			<p>it relates to the Scheme. In considering the provisions of the NPS it is noted that the main method of its implementation is through the WCRC undertaking amendments to its planning instruments to give effect to the provisions, with Part E identifying that the a progressive implementation programme is to be fully realised by 2030.</p> <p>It is considered, based on the material provided in the application, that the Scheme is consistent with the Objectives and Policies of this NPS. Material contained within the application, and associated conditions will ensure that the life supporting capacity of freshwater is sustainably managed through the development of the Scheme and overall freshwater quality and quantity is maintained at acceptable levels. Water quantity, whilst lowered on a more frequent basis, is still at a level as outlined within the application (Section 5.1.4(b)) that does not impact the significant wetlands associated with Lake Kaniere (<b>Objective B4</b>), and provides for improvements in the efficient allocation and efficient use of water associated with the Kaniere hydrological system (<b>Objective B4</b>). In terms of Part D, as outlined in Section 4.2.3 of the application, Ngati Wae wae have been consulted in respect of the Scheme.</p> <p>The <b>NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011</b> provides for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing hydro-electricity structures to the extent applicable to the region or district. This NPS requires that decision makers must recognise and provide for the national, regional and local benefits of renewable electricity generation activities, whose benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained or improved electricity generation whilst avoiding or displacing greenhouse gas emissions;</li> <li>• Maintaining or increasing security of supply even at localised levels, by diversifying the type and / or location of generation;</li> <li>• Use of renewable energy resources rather than finite sources;</li> <li>• Reversibility of adverse effects on the environment of some renewable energy generation technologies;</li> <li>• Avoid reliance on imported fuels for electricity generation.</li> </ul>

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			<p>Importantly, in relation to the Scheme, the benefits of renewable energy must be recognised regardless of whether renewable projects are of national scale, or provide more regional and localised benefits (<b>Policy A</b>).</p> <p><b>Part F</b> extends this direction further by requiring that regional and district planning provisions are to include provisions for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of smaller scale and community scale distributed renewable energy generation.</p> <p><b>Part B</b> identifies the cumulative considerations of a diversity of renewable electricity sources to meet or exceed the New Zealand Government's national target of renewable generation, and that even minor reductions in generation outputs from existing generators can have significant effects on national to local level outputs.</p> <p><b>Part C</b> recognises that the scale and location of renewable energy projects tends to locate close to natural energy sources, which can create conflicts with cultural, ecological and landscape values. Accordingly, <b>Policy C1(b)</b> requires that decision makers have particular regard to, and acknowledge the operational and technical practicalities associated with, the development of renewable electricity generation. <b>Policy C2</b> specifically acknowledges that environmental compensation and offsets are legitimate measures whereby electricity generators can seek to provide an environmental benefit some distance from the Scheme to counterbalance specific footprint impacts.</p> <p>These matters are of considerable importance to the Kaniere – McKays Schemes, which seek to optimise and continue operation of the existing Kaniere and McKays HEPS to the benefit of regional and localised energy supply in accordance with the supply side aims of the NPS. As the Scheme footprint traverses a number of section 6 RMA matters, all efforts have been taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate the extent of impacts, however, it is simply not feasible to optimise the two schemes</p>

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			without providing for a hydrological link between the two. This has led to the proposed Ward Road power station, and associated terrestrial habitat removal. Accordingly, and consistent with <b>Policy C2</b> an appropriate terrestrial offset is proposed by way of consent conditions.

### Westland District Council Further Information Request (RMA – s.92)

Matter	Reason	Information Required	TrustPower's Response
1. Landscape / Natural Character / Amenity	To fully understand the potential effects of works required from the intake at Lake Kaniere to the outlet of the McKays tailrace.	<p>a) Confirm the assessed landscape status of the project area in terms of the application and the provisions of the Westland District Plan.</p> <p>b) Detail of works required, and assessment of landscape effects, at the intake/tunnel section of the Kaniere Forks scheme to chainage 000m. Plans provide some detail from chainage 000m onward but not in the area before chainage 000m through the 10m construction corridor. Also provide typical cross sections for this area particularly where it enters the reserve and walkway.</p> <p>c) Details of the degree of riparian vegetation removal along Kaniere River, the resultant landscape effects and proposed mitigation between the intake and chainage 500m. Can riparian vegetation removal be avoided or what buffer margin is proposed?</p>	<p>a) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p> <p>b) Between the intake and chainage 500m the existing race was installed in a cleared corridor between 6 and 10m wide. This has since been re-vegetated. As noted on drawing 10-KNF/RUG-114 (Appendix 1 of <b>Attachment A</b>), approximately the first 70m of the route will replace the existing culvert and tunnel with new, larger, cut and cover culvert. The construction corridor over this area is 10m wide and the new culvert will be installed by cut and cover.</p> <p>To minimise the footprint of the scheme through the reserve, the new access path for bicycles and recreational walkers will be placed on top of the culvert. Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>c) The scheme avoids removal of any primary growth riparian vegetation between the existing footprint and the river. The tightest possible construction and permanent corridor of 15m wide is nominated – between 9m and 5m wider than the original clearing.</p> <p>All work will be on the hill side of the existing clearing and the edge of the corridor will be fenced on the river side during construction to ensure that no work or debris extends on the riparian side of the existing embankment.</p>

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		<p>d) Detail existing vegetation and amenities removed, and earthworks required including assessment of landscape effects of all works between the intake/landing and chainage 500m and provide details, timing and plans of the proposed landscape/amenities rehabilitation and mitigation for this area.</p> <p>e) Both the landscape assessment provided and suggested conditions proposed amenity /picnic areas. Provide details of proposals including locations and descriptions</p>	<p>A draft construction management plan is currently being developed and will describe measures that will be undertaken to minimise the impact of vegetation removal. The plan will be presented at the hearing. Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>Mr Hooson has advised that the significance of the clearance of the riparian vegetation is small in the context of the total vegetation clearance required for the Kaniere Forks enhancements. This vegetation removal cannot be avoided and a buffer margin is not available in this situation. Rehabilitation planting will be undertaken alongside the new tailrace and access track where riparian vegetation has been removed during construction. Refer <b>Attachment E</b>.</p> <p>d) Mr Hooson has stated that the vegetation between the Landing / intake and chainage 500m is primary rimu-miro / kamahi-quintinia forest. Detailed information of this vegetation is provided in Section 5.6.1 of the Terrestrial Ecology Report lodged with the application. The proposed landscape rehabilitation for this area will be outlined in the Draft Landscape Rehabilitation Plan (to be provided at the hearing). Mr Hooson states that the objective of rehabilitation for the areas currently in indigenous vegetation will be to return them to a state that resembles, as closely as possible, the vegetative cover prior to construction of the enhancements. Refer <b>Attachment E</b>.</p> <p>e) Mr Piddington advises that two amenity / picnic areas are to be developed during construction, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A picnic area with tables and an interpretation area will be developed at the Landing or intake to the Scheme; and</li> <li>• A picnic area with tables and some heritage interpretation panels are proposed at chainage 1,000 – 1,100m where a buffer storage area is proposed.</li> </ul>

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		<p>f) Areas of cut are proposed through the development of the works, please provide details or proposed disposal of excess fill and landscape mitigation.</p> <p>g) The suggested landscape rehabilitation plan conditions propose successful rehabilitation will be achieved at a coverage of 40% gorse and 10% bare ground. Is this proposed to apply between the intake and chainage 500m and will this achieve mitigation of landscape effects through that area.</p> <p>h) It is proposed over the whole construction</p>	<p>Additionally, once the existing Kaniere Forks power station is decommissioned, this building and surrounding area will be used as another amenity area and can be used for visitor / educational centre. This proposal will be addressed by way of resource consent conditions. Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>f) Cut volume for the project will be dependent on final geotechnical design and survey. However, a conservative estimate is that there will be about 105,000 cubic metres of cut material that will need to be placed as fill.</p> <p>The main areas identified for placing this fill are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Along the canal right-of-way where it coincides with the existing clearing for the transmission line (approximately 10,000 cubic metres);</li> <li>ii. Forming the temporary works area and permanent works platform at the Wards Road power station and penstock routes (approximately 48,000 cubic metres);</li> <li>iii. Surfacing of the existing path down the true left of the Kaniere River so it is suitable for bicycles and walkers (approximately 2,000 cubic metres);</li> <li>iv. Disposal off-site at an approved filling area (approximately 60,000 cubic metres). Two such areas have been identified, one on the farm that McKay's canal goes through and the other up Wards Road on existing forestry land. Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</li> </ul> <p>g) The landscape rehabilitation plan does apply to the area between the intake and chainage 500m. Further information in response to this request in terms of landscape effects will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p> <p>h) Further information in response to this request will be</p>

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		<p>site that, post construction, 40% may be left as gorse, with 10% being left as bare ground. Is the conclusion of the assessment effects that this mitigates landscape/character effects of the works particularly along the cycle/walkway. Provide details and plans of the proposed landscaping/revegetation works following construction.</p> <p>i) From approximate chainage 500 through to Ward Road the race and access follows the transmission line corridor. Plans provided note the transmission line corridor is a 25 metre clearing but the proposed construction corridor is 30 metres, please provide reasons for the need to widen existing cleared transmission corridor.</p> <p>j) Please confirm that all proposed new buildings and structures are to be painted in colours which mitigate visual effects.</p> <p>k) The Kaniere Forks scheme proposes to penstock options from Ward Road to the new power station. Provide an assessment of the landscape effects of each of the two options and whether there is a preferred option.</p>	<p>provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p> <p>Mr Hooson states that once the targets outlined in draft condition 19 for the Kaniere Forks and McKays HEPS are satisfied, rehabilitation will be deemed to have been successful from an ecological perspective. The proposed cover of ≤40% of gorse in the canopy and ≤10% bare ground reflects the likely successional pathway this vegetation will take. Mr Hooson states that controlling gorse is likely to perpetuate an early successional vegetation stage by returning controlled areas to bare ground which will continue to be invaded by gorse. Refer <b>Attachment E</b>.</p> <p>Details of the proposed landscaping and revegetation works following construction will be provided in the Landscape Rehabilitation Plan, which will be provided at the hearing.</p> <p>i) TrustPower has advised that it is no longer necessary to widen the construction corridor from approximately chainage 500 through to Wards Road. Construction works can be contained within the existing transmission line corridor. Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>j) Further to Section 5.1.5 of the AEE, all of the buildings and structures will be painted in recessive colours to ensure that they blend into the surrounding environment.</p> <p>k) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p>

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		<p>l) The McKays Scheme provides different options prior to the buffer pond and new penstocks. Provide an assessment of the landscape effects of each of the two options and whether these is a preferred option.</p> <p>m) The McKays Scheme proposes two new above ground penstocks between the new headpond and the enhanced station. Provide an assessment of the effects and proposed mitigation.</p>	<p>l) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p> <p>m) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p>
2. Vegetation Removal	To fully understand the potential effects of removal of indigenous vegetation and habitats	<p>a) The assessment of effects provided with the application clearly identifies that the proposed works will result in a loss of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats. It was the conclusion of the assessment provided that it was not possible to assess the effects of the project without knowing the proposed mitigation.</p> <p>The applicant has advised, through a request for further information prior to notification, that a package is being developed to mitigate ecological effects. The applicant has advised that a detailed mitigation package will be provided to the Council.</p> <p>The applicant has also suggested conditions regarding "<i>Indigenous Vegetation Clearance Mitigation</i>" which involve a program being developed with the Department of Conservation. This however does not provide the ability to assess effects through the consent process and provides little certainty as to what is proposed or the outcome.</p>	a) Further information in response to this request will be provided at the hearing.

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		<p>Provide details of the proposed mitigation package, including amended assessment, conclusions and recommendations as to the effects of vegetation removal including areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.</p> <p>b) Provide assessment of the adequacy of the Flora and Fauna surveys predicting and determining the potential effects of the proposals on flora and fauna.</p> <p>c) The assessment of effects advises that it is preferable to undertake construction works outside the nesting period (ie undertake works from February to September) although notes from a practical sense that it may not be achievable. Is it practical to achieve this through timing of activities, or are there areas that are more sensitive than others that could be avoided at nesting season?</p>	<p>b) Mr Hooson has provided a detailed response on the adequacy of the flora and fauna surveys and assessment. In summary, comprehensive surveys have been undertaken of the riparian vegetation and wetlands within the proposed Kaniere and McKays HEPS and surrounding environment. In addition, Mr Hooson notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys and information available on water birds and terrestrial habitats provided sufficient information to determine the potential effects on birds;</li> <li>• The assessment utilised DOC surveys for bats in the area. Additional surveys were not considered necessary as bats frequently shift roosts, therefore pre-construction monitoring is considered necessary and has been provided as a condition of consent; and</li> <li>• Specific surveys of lizards or invertebrates has not be undertaken as the construction corridor is relatively narrow and is likely to only affect a very small population of individuals in the local population. Refer <b>Attachment E</b>.</li> </ul> <p>c) Mr Hooson's assessment states that a small number of nests and indirect disturbance to nests as a result of the construction works and vegetation clearance may result in next desertion and egg and nestling loss. However, given the relatively narrow construction corridor proposed, it is considered that any population effects will be very small. Therefore, Mr Hooson considers that it is unnecessary to stage the construction works around the bird nesting period. Refer <b>Attachment E</b>.</p>

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3. Heritage	To fully understand proposed activities as they relate to effects on the Kaniere race and walkway	<p>a) Provide a summary/schedule of the sections of the race and walkway to be removed, retired/decommissioned, retained and modified/incorporated into the enhanced scheme between the intake and the existing Kaniere Forks power station. Including how each section is to be managed and/or maintained during and post construction.</p> <p>b) Suggested condition 22(a) refers to a list of heritage sites that are not to be avoided as being provided in 22(c). However there is no 22(c) in the conditions, please provide the</p>	<p>a) Mr Ryan Piddington has provided a detailed summary of the proposed changes to the race and walkway incorporated into the enhanced scheme in <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>With regard to the proposed changes to the race and walkway, Mr Piddington states that the options from Ward Road are to continue on with the new canal along the alignment of the existing canal / walkway from another 250m where the water will be piped to the Ward Road Station down on the river terrace. This option will result in the replacement of the existing canal for this distance.</p> <p>The alternative option is to pipe the water from Ward Road (under the road) and then above ground to the same power station location on the river terrace.</p> <p>The remaining section of the canal / walkway down to Kennedy Creek will remain as it currently is until the existing Kaniere Forks power station is decommissioned and then this remaining section of the race will be retired.</p> <p>The sections of the race that do not form part of the enhanced scheme will be kept clear of any fallen trees and the walkway will be maintained to a standard that is fit for its usage requirements during both the construction and post construction periods. Currently the maintenance of the walkway is shared between DOC and TrustPower through an informal agreement. This arrangement is proposed to be formalised as part of the re-consenting process. In addition, management of the remaining sections of the canal and walkway are detailed in conditions 38 and 39 of the General Conditions for the Westland District Council – Kaniere Forks HEPS, as detailed below in question 3(c).</p> <p>b) TrustPower proposes to replace proposed condition 22 with the following condition:</p> <p><i>22.The Heritage Management Plan shall be prepared, in</i></p>

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		<p>proposed list of sites not proposed to be avoided.</p> <p>c) Suggested conditions 38 and 39 provide conditions "if requested by the Department of Conservation". It is assumed that these are matters arising through approval processes with the landowner. However this does not provide any certainty as it is unknown what discussions are occurring through access/concession procedures and leaves the outcome to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Advise whether it is proposed to undertake the requirements of suggested conditions 38 and 39 in order that these outcomes can form part of consideration of the effects of the proposal.</p>	<p>consultation with Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, and shall provide for the following objectives:</p> <p>(a) The avoidance of known heritage sites (identified in condition 23(c)) and the minimisation of any other sites identified during construction;</p> <p>(b) To ensure that the discovery of a heritage site, koiwi tangata (human skeletal remains), taonga or archaeological artefacts are dealt with in accordance with conditions of consent including the Accidental Discovery Protocol.</p> <p>c) Mr Piddington has advised that TrustPower has further reviewed these conditions and proposes the following conditions:</p> <p>38. With respect to that 900m section of the existing Kaniere Water Race between Lake Kaniere and Ward Road as identified in Condition 23(c). The Consent Holder, shall, <u>in consultation with if requested by the Department of Conservation, include objectives in the Heritage Management Plan that shall:...</u></p> <p>39. With respect to remedial works and maintenance of the retired sections of the Kaniere Water Race and race man's track between Lake Kaniere and Kennedy Creek (including the original dry, disused section of the water race), the Consent Holder shall <del>should this be requested by</del> in consultation with the Department of Conservation;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Refer <b>Attachment A</b>.</p>
4. Cycle/Walkway	To fully understand effects on recreational use of the cycle/walkway	<p>a) Request a) above under "Heritage" is also relevant for a complete understanding of the effects on recreational use of the cycle/walkway between the intake and the existing Kaniere Forks power station.</p> <p>b) Provide an assessment of the change in character and amenity between the current</p>	<p>a) Mr Piddington has provided a detailed summary of the proposed changes to the race and walkway incorporated into the enhanced scheme in <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>b) Mr Greenaway has provided a detailed assessment of the potential changes to the Lake Kaniere Water Race track</p>

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		<p>proposed cycle/walkway.</p> <p>c) Provide details of the timing of closure of the cycle/walkway and its opening for public use. Describe any alternative options available for cyclists and pedestrians whilst sections of the cycle/walkway are unusable.</p> <p>d) Suggested conditions 26 and 27 appear to</p>	<p>likely to result from the proposal. The redeveloped track will result in a change to the amenity values of the setting of the track, however this will change over time. The construction of a track from Ward Road to Lake Kaniere on the south side of the Main Road will provide an alternative access route during the construction period and create a new local cycling and walking opportunity. Further, the development will result in a track standard that is suitable for the Westland Wilderness Trail. Refer <b>Attachment D</b>.</p> <p>c) A draft Construction Plan for the works will be provided at the hearing.</p> <p>The works will be phased so that work from the intake to chainage 500m will be undertaken outside the peak summer months. The preliminary project programme is provided in Appendix 4 of <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>It is planned to start the work by upgrading the existing WDC water supply line access track down the true left of the Kaniere River from about 200m from the lake down to Wards Road. This path will be resurfaced and graded to provide pedestrian and cycle access down to Wards Road and will provide an alternative access route during construction of the new canal and accessway.</p> <p>Work on the canal corridor will then progressively proceed from Wards Road toward Lake Kaniere, further detail on the works will be provided in the Draft Construction Plan. The intention is to first build the construction accessways and prepare the right of way for canal construction where it does not impact on the existing race and walkway. During this period pedestrian and cycle access will be maintained along the existing walkway. Only when construction work has reached chainage 550 will the existing walkway be closed while necessary construction work is carried out along the existing canal easement.</p> <p>d) As noted above, an alternative pedestrian and cycle way</p>

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		<p>indicate that the cycle/walkway may not be reinstated for up to one year after the cessation of construction activities. Describe why it is not possible to reinstate the cycle/walkway progressively in order that it is ready for use at the cessation of construction activities. Provide a timeline of how long it can be expected that the public cycle/walkway will not be available for use.</p> <p>e) Advise whether the cycle/walkway between Wards Road and the existing Kaniere power station is to be retained and maintained.</p> <p>f) Advise of effects on the proposed Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail, whether it is proposed to incorporate that trail into the cycle/walkway developed through this scheme, and potential alternative cycle trails during construction.</p>	<p>will be provided along the true left of the Kaniere River to provide alternative access options. Access to the current walkway and cycle way from the landing to Ward Road will be stopped and unavailable for public use for nine months.</p> <p>e) As noted in response to question 3 a) above, the cycle / walkway between Wards Road and the existing Kaniere power station is to be retained and maintained. Further detail of the proposed maintenance regime is provided in <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>f) Mr Greenaway has provided a detailed assessment of the potential changes to the Lake Kaniere Water race track resulting from the proposal. Mr Greenaway notes that the development will result in a track standard that is suitable for the Westland Wilderness Track.</p> <p>The proposed development of a track from Ward Road to Lake Kaniere on the south side of the main road will provide an alternative access route during the construction period and create a new local cycling and walking opportunity. Further, this will ultimately create a walking / cycle loop. Refer <b>Attachment D</b>.</p>
5. Project Timing	To fully understand the period over which construction, rehabilitation and commissioning will occur	<p>a) Provide a project time line / schedule setting out anticipated construction works, rehabilitation, and commission. For the Kaniere HEPS this would include closure and opening of the cycle / walkway.</p> <p>b) Provide an outline of proposed working hours for construction activities.</p>	<p>a) A programme of works is provided in Appendix 4 of <b>Attachment A</b>. Further information regarding the construction works will be provided in the Draft Construction Plan, which will be provided at the hearing.</p> <p>b) The intended normal working hours are between 7.00am and 8.00pm Monday to Saturday.</p>
6. Landownership	To fully understand effects on scheme alignment	<p>a) Whilst agreement to access land is outside the consent process, it is apparent that some parts of the Kaniere scheme cross</p>	<p>a) As WDC has acknowledged, land access matters are a separate concern from the resource consent process. TrustPower is currently working to achieve appropriate</p>

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		private land for which access has not been agreed. Should agreement not be reached this will affect alignment and consequently details of the project such as vegetation clearance. Any change of alignment may result in the requirement for additional consents which would then be considered without the benefit of the project as a whole. Advise whether the project is to remain in the proposed alignment and construction envelope or whether changes are required as a result of land tenure matters.	<p>access arrangements with all the relevant landowners, and anticipates these negotiations will prove successful. Thus, no alternative alignments are being sought by way of the present applications.</p> <p>However, should the proposal need to be modified in future (as a result of land access issues or any other reason), TrustPower will apply for any additional resource consent and other approvals which may be required.</p>
7. National Policy Statements	To fully understand the Policy Framework applicable to the applications	<p>a) There is a national policy statement which has applicability to these application from the District Council perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation</li> </ul> <p>The National Policy Statement provides an objective and policies for renewable electricity generation to guide applicants and decision makers for resource consents. Provide an assessment of the objective and policies in relation to these applications</p>	<p>a) As noted in the response to WCRC question 13 above, the policies outlined in the <b>NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011</b> are of considerable importance to the Kaniere – McKays Schemes, which seek to optimise and continue operation of the existing Kaniere and McKays HEPS to the benefit of regional and localised energy supply in accordance with the supply side aims of the NPS. It is considered that the proposal is consistent with the NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011.</p>
8. National Environmental Standards	To fully understand the Regulatory Framework applicable to the applications	<p>a) A National Environmental Standard (NES) for Transmission lines is in effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NES for Electricity Transmission Activities</li> </ul> <p>The application proposes use of, and works within a transmission line corridor. Confirm ownership and operation of the transmission line and assess the applicability of the NES to the applications</p>	<p>a) The ownership and responsibility for operations of the transmission lines is with Westpower.</p> <p>As noted in the response to WCRC question 13 above, the <b>NES for Electricity Transmission Activities</b> is not applicable to the Scheme.</p>
9. Context	To fully understand the need for, and place of the enhanced schemes in the District and Regional electricity framework	<p>a) Detail and assess the role the existing and enhanced schemes play in the network of supply of electricity on the West Coast, and in particular the Westland District.</p> <p>b) Detail and assess the need for or benefit of increased hydro-electric generation within the Region and District.</p>	<p>a) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p> <p>b) Further information in response to this request will be provided on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.</p>