

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

Matter	Reason	Information Required	TrustPower Response
Gravel extraction	Gravel is to be extracted from the Kaniere River during the construction/enhancement works.	<p>Clearly indicate on an aerial photograph or map the location(s) for the gravel extraction.</p> <p>Give an indication of the amount of gravel to be extracted and if it is from the dry bed.</p> <p>Give an indication of the timing and duration of the gravel extraction.</p>	
Lake levels	Lake levels will occur at lower levels for a longer period of time.	<p>Please detail how quickly lake levels are likely to rise and fall and any potential effects as a result and mitigation proposed.</p> <p>How will lower water levels affect lake bed 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>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>The potential effects and mitigation for impacts on freshwater mussels due to changing lake levels.</p>	

Recreational effects and mitigation

A large number of recreational activities and sporting events occur on the lake and its surrounds.

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 fishing competitions.

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.

Potential mitigation for infrastructure such as boat ramps and jetties becoming unusable due to lower lake levels.

Safety Issues

Lower lake levels could expose hazards that did not exist at the existing operational lake levels

An assessment of the potential effects and mitigation against increased risks to swimmers from changes in lake depth.

Potential effects and mitigation for exposed hazards such as rocks and logs for boating and skiing.

Natural features/landscapes

Although the lake is not identified as an outstanding natural feature/landscape in the Proposed Regional Land and Riverbed Management Plan or the Proposed Land and Water Plan there are criteria for assessment in the West Coast Regional Policy Statement.

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.

Hokitika community water supply	The lake levels will be lower for longer periods of time and operating just above the community water supply intake	Detail any effects the increased take will have on the Hokitika community water supply. In particular make comment on the National Environmental Standard for Drinking water. Details of any cumulative effects from the 2 takes particularly given the recent increase in take for the Hokitika water supply.	
Other local water supplies	Many of the houses surrounding Lake Kaniere have water supplies either directly from the lake or from groundwater	Assessment of any potential effects and/or mitigation that may be required for these water supplies.	
Wetlands	A number of mature wetlands surround Lake Kaniere.	Assessment of the effects of lower lake levels on those wetlands, how effects may be monitored for and any potential mitigation measures.	
Salmon and trout	Juvenile trout and salmon have been released into Lake Kaniere for fishing purposes.	Confirmation that there will be sufficient water in the Kaniere 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?	
Alternatives	Further discussion on alternatives required	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?	
Benefits of additional generation capacity	The proposal increases the generation capacity of the existing scheme resulting in additional/changes in the environmental effects.	Provide further detail on the benefits of the enhancements to the generation capacity of the schemes.	

<p>Other environmental issues</p>	<p>Lower lake and river levels have the potential to adversely impact on the environment.</p>	<p>Provide an assessment on the potential for an increase in algal blooms as a result of lower water levels and higher temperatures in both the lake and river.</p> <p>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>Further information on the structural and/or management changes to be made that would improve fish and eel passage.</p>	
<p>National Environmental Standards, Policy Statements and Regulations</p>	<p>A number of NES, NPS and regulations apply to this application</p>	<p>Detail how the enhanced schemes will meet the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NES for Electricity Transmission Activities NES for Sources of Drinking Water NES 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 	