

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

<u>Matter</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Information Required</u>	<u>Trustpower response</u>
Landscape/Natural Character/Amenity	To fully understand the potential effects of works required from the intake at Lake Kaniere to the outlet of	a) Confirm the assessed landscape status of the project area in terms of the application and the provisions of the Westland District Plan.	

	the McKays tailrace.	<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>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>f) Areas of cut are proposed through the development of the works please provide details of proposed disposal of excess fill and landscape mitigation.</p>	
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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</p>	

		<p>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> <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 during the nesting season.</p>	
Heritage	To fully understand proposed activities as they relate to effects on the Kanieri Race and walkway	a) Provide a summary/schedule of the sections of the race and walkway to be removed, retired/decommissioned, retained and modified/incorporated in to the enhanced scheme between the intake and the existing Kanieri Forks power station. Including how each section is to be managed and/or maintained during and post construction.	

		<p>b) Suggested condition 22(a) refers to a list of heritages 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 proposed list of sites not proposed to be avoided.</p> <p>c) Suggested conditions 38 and 39 provide conditions “<i>if requested by the Department of Conservation</i>”. 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 3rd 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>	
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 and 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</p>	

		<p>cycle/walkway are unusable.</p> <p>d) Suggested conditions 26 and 27 appear to indicate that the cycle/walkway may not be reinstated for up to 1 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 in to the cycle/walkway developed through this scheme, and potential alternative cycle trails during construction.</p>	
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 commissioning. 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>	
Landownership	To fully understand effects on scheme alignment.	a) Whilst agreement to access land is outside the consent process. It is apparent that some parts of the Kaniere scheme cross private land for	

		<p>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 consideration of the project as a whole. Advise whether the project is to remain the in the proposed alignment and construction envelope or whether changes are required as a result of land tenure matters.</p>	
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 applications from the District Council perspective;</p> <p>- NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation</p> <p>The national policy statement provides an objective and policies for renewable electricity generation to guide applicants and decision makers for resource consents.</p> <p>Provide an assessment of the objective and policies in relation to these applications.</p>	
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> <p>- NES for Electricity Transmission Activities</p> <p>The application proposes use of, and works within, a transmission line corridor.</p> <p>Confirm ownership and operation of the transmission line and assess the applicability of the NES to the applications.</p>	

Context	To fully understand the need for, and place of, the enhanced schemes in the District and Regional electricity network.	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. b) Detail and assess the need for, or benefit of, increased hydro-electric generation within the Region and District.	
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