5 April 2019

Department of Conservation
Hokitika Office
Private Bag 701,
HOKITIKA 7842

By email: dclendon@doc.govt.nz

CONCESSION APPLICATION 53660-OTH: FURTHER INFORMATION

Introduction

1. Late last year, the Department of Conservation ("**DOC**") provided the applicant, No 8 Hydro Ltd ("**No 8**"), with a response to additional information provided by No 8, together with technical comments.

2. In light of that material, No 8 agreed to:

   (a) undertake further field survey work, and provide a further report to DOC; and

   (b) provide an updated visual / landscape impact assessment;

   so that any potential information "gaps" would be filled (although No 8 did not accept that there were any fundamental "gaps" that would preclude the grant of the rights sought).

3. The further reports are very positive for the proposal.

4. The ecological report concludes, for example:

   (a) In terms of bats:

   > the results of bioacoustic surveys demonstrate very low activity levels and the timing of bat passes are not indicative of local roosting (i.e. no peaks in sunrise and sunset activity).

   (b) In terms of herpetofauna:

   > No lizards were seen or captured during the survey period; providing no evidence of early occupancy. ...
   >
   > Targeted manual habitat searches and spotlighting failed to detect the presence of any skink or gecko species.

   (c) In respect of effects on terrestrial ecosystems, that the effects are "negligible", stating:

> Very Slight change from the existing condition. Change barely distinguishable, approximating to the 'no change' situation; AND or Having a negligible effect on the known population or range of the element/feature.

(d) In terms of freshwater ecology, that the effects are also "negligible" stating:

> Very Slight change from the existing condition. Change barely distinguishable, approximating to the 'no change' situation; AND or Having a negligible effect on the known population of range of the element/feature.

5. In respect of landscape and visual matters, the report concludes:

> The assessment of the visual and landscape effects demonstrates that the proposed development will be low to moderate during construction and low after construction.

Forward progress

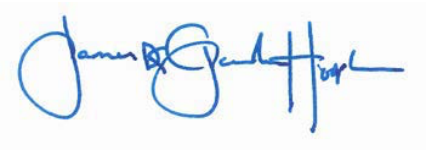
6. No 8 Hydro looks forward to advancing its application to a positive determination.

7. I understand that its additional information will be assessed by DOC's technical staff, with a report then provided to DOC's decision maker.

8. I also understand that No 8 will be sent a copy of the draft report for comment, before it is finalised and that this should occur by 10 May 2019, the information having been provided by 5 April 2019, as agreed.

9. I would be happy to discuss any matter arising in the meantime.

Yours faithfully
James Gardner-Hopkins



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