



31 May 2022

Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe Minister

Waitaha Hydro Project: Application for Reconsideration

I attach an application for reconsideration of the decision by the Minister for the Environment dated 27 August 2019 to decline Westpower's application for a concession for the Waitaha hydro project.

This application is made under section 17ZJ of the Conservation Act 1987.

Without limiting the scope of the reconsideration process, there are four particular areas of focus:

- Section 4 of the Conservation Act, the Treaty principles, and the views and aspirations of Poutini Ngāi Tahu (who are a partner in the Waitaha project). Poutini Ngāi Tahu will write to you directly on this matter.
- The climate change emergency and the urgent need for these types of renewable energy generation projects to be authorised including on public conservation land (noting the significant impacts of climate change on biodiversity and conservation land and resources).
- The need for a real-world and contextual assessment of the effects of the project on values such as natural character and tramping, including an assessment of recent refinements that significantly reduce the visibility of the project structures.
- The assessment of legal and planning matters.

As a next step in this process, Westpower would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss this application with you and Poutini Ngāi Tahu, and to show you the proposed project site.

Our team will be in contact with your department to work through the next steps in the process.

Thank you for your reconsideration of this application.

Ngā mihi nui

Peter Armstrong
Chief Executive

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