

Leon Keefer

From: Gae Lewis <lewslot@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 20 December 2021 9:40 am
To: Leon Keefer
Subject: Hydro Power scheme . File APP. 042595.01.01

Hi Leon,

Thanks for arranging the site visit meeting. I hope it made my application easier to understand.

Terry Kennedy has emailed you an addendum to his Ecoprojects ecological assessment. Can you confirm that it answers your request for further information noted in your 24 November letter.

With regards to diadromous fish it has always been my position that there are large numbers of eels in the river. I agree with local Maori that there is not enough habitat and food for this large population to grow up to migration size. This is backed up by Fisheries New Zealand's survey in 2019 conducted by Mr Milan Ruka. If you can forward me a messenger address I will forward a video of our own survey and catches. In this exercise we could not count the eels as myself and staff could not lift the swollen overfilled traps.

I have again been in contact with the Korokota Marae tangatawhenua. Their current position is that they have thanked me for my Marae presentation and that in the following discussions it was clear that most there were not interested. Some were strongly in favour and some against or hesitant. They have another meeting on or about 11 January 2022 where they may discuss things further. To date although promised on three occasions after three discussions no written replies have come. They have two water trustees who deal with all the river / hydro / eel matters. They are employed by Northpower and as a result of this conflict are unwilling to progress this matter. I have again asked them for a written response and told them that I could meet with them with yourself to discuss issues if they prefer.

I trust that you have now the full list of iwi, Hapu and Maori groups that Alisha provided me and all the emailed copied in correspondence. When one group replied questioning the amount of detail she replied and forwarded what the group wanted.

As the result of a meeting with Alisha she was to provide me with correspondence between Northpower and the Korokota Marae water trustees about Maori concerns with the current power operation, and any cultural impact assessment. The cultural issues faced by Korokota / Ngati Hau must be identical. Same river, same people and similar hazards.

Alisha had this information and was the source of her 17.3.2021 request for further information (4) An assessment of policy D.1.1. "Of key concern to tangatawhenua for this proposal will be adverse effects on tuna (eels)"...

Verbally tangatawhenua have told me that only the eels lifecycle (up river and down river) are of concern. They have already had a site visit and have agreed there appears to be no burial sites in the area of the project.

Could you let me know if the NRC has not given yourself access to this information so I can see Stuart Savill about it.

With regards to excavated materials it is envisaged that earthworks will be done in summer dry conditions. Earth will be divided between top soils and subsoils and stockpiled so that underlying rock can be drilled, blasted and processed. Spalls will be taken to tailrace area for armour. Crushed gabions will be sold and removed. Fines will be stockpiled for a short time and then used to form compacted base for penstocks and covering them after laying. Subsoil put back on top of covered pipes and then top soils which would be seeded for pasture by Easter. Any excess material will be taken to cover exposed pipes in quarry area.

Please feel free to contact, visit or discuss any issues over the holidays as us farmers have to keep working.
Have a merry Xmas,
Cheers Neil.

Sent from my iPad