

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

MP for Kelston

Minister for Social Development and Employment
Minister for ACC
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister for Disability Issues



18 October 2021

Richard Fowler
Chair, Kapuni Green Hydrogen Expert Consenting Panel

Via email: kapuni-green@epa.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Richard

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on consent application for the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project

Thank you for your email of 30 September 2021 seeking my comments on the consent application for the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project by Hiringa Energy Limited and Balance Agri-Nutrients Limited under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act).

I support the intent of the project, being to establish a renewable wind energy facility with associated hydrogen production, storage, offtake and refuelling infrastructure in Kapuni, South Taranaki.

I note that under the Act you must also seek comment from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT). My officials have provided me with a summary of the comments HNZPT intend to make to your Panel.

I have reviewed HNZPT's comments and support their view that an Accidental Discovery Protocol should be added as a condition of consent. I also support their recommendation to add an advice note about the requirements of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 in relation to archaeological sites.

Given the suggestions on consent conditions by HNZPT, I would appreciate the opportunity to review the draft conditions should your Panel decide to grant the consent.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Sepuloni'.

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage