

Invitation for Comment on Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project

The Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project is a Referred Project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

Application name	Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project
EPA reference	FTC000033
Applicant/s	Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited
Comments due by	21 October 2021
Accessing the application	The full application and supporting documents can be viewed on the EPA website, which can be accessed here: https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/referred-projects/kapuni-new-page/application/

An application has been made by Hiringa Energy Limited and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited (the applicant) under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the act) for resource consent for the Kapuni Green Hydrogen project.

To comment on the project application, please fill in the details on the attached form and:

- **Email** the form to kapunigreen@epa.govt.nz. Please mark in the subject line: "Comments on Kapuni Green Hydrogen Fast Track Application (Your name/organisation) by **21 October 2021**"; or
- **Post** the form to Kapuni Green Hydrogen Fast Track Application, Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Waterloo Quay, Wellington 6140 in time for the form to be received by the **21 October 2021**; or
- **Deliver in person** to Environmental Protection Authority, Grant Thornton House, Level 10, 215 Lambton Quay, Wellington by **21 October 2021**. Please note that due to potential changes in COVID-19 Alert Levels our reception may not be open to the public. We suggest phoning ahead to check.

Comments must be received by the EPA, on behalf of the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Expert Consenting Panel, no later than **21 October 2021**

If your comment is not received by the EPA by **21 October 2021** the Panel is not required to consider your comment (although it may decide to). Under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 there is no right to seek a waiver of the time limit.

If you are an iwi authority, you may share the consent application with hapū whose rohe is in the project area in the application and choose to include comments from the hapū with any comments you may wish to provide.

Important information

Your personal information will be held by the EPA and used in relation to the project consent application process. You have the right to access and correct personal information held by the EPA.

A copy of your comments, including all personal information, will be provided to the Expert Consenting Panel and the applicant.

All comments received on the application will be available on the EPA website.

If you are a corporate entity making comments on this application, your full contact details will be publicly available. For individuals your name will be publicly available but your contact details (phone number, address, and email) will not be publicly available.

Please do not use copyright material without the permission of the copyright holder.

All information held by the EPA is subject to the Official Information Act 1982.

More information on the fast-track consenting process can be found at <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/about/>.

More information on the commenting on a fast-track consenting application can be found at <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/commenting/>.

Your Comment on the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

1. Contact Details

Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.

Organisation name (if relevant)	Department of Conservation		
*First name	Chris		
*Last name	Rendall		
Postal address	18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011		
*Home phone / Mobile phone	027 408 3526	*Work phone	027 408 3526
*Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	crendall@doc.govt.nz		

2. *We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment about this application

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct
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3. Please provide your comments on this application

If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and the project name on the additional pages

These comments are provided on behalf of the Director-General of Conservation under s(6)(j) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020.

Overview of Proposal

The Project is a joint development between Hiringa Energy Ltd and Balance Agri-Nutrients Ltd. It is to develop a renewable hydrogen hub at Kapuni in Taranaki. This will be the first project in New Zealand to couple wind generation integration with hydrogen production. The project has the potential to create new technical capabilities in New Zealand for green hydrogen production.

The Project works will involve the following activities:

- Installation of four wind turbines with up to 24 MW of generation capacity.

- Construction and installation of electrolysis plant and hydrogen production infrastructure within Ballance's Kapuni Plant site.
- Construction and installation of hydrogen storage and loadout facilities within Ballance's Kapuni Plant site.

The project location is Kokiri Rd, Kapuni, Taranaki. The area is predominantly dairy pasture or the existing industrial Ballance plant and are highly modified environments, however there are some hedgerow habitats within the project site. The development does not occur near any Public Conservation Land. Authorisations under the Wildlife Act 1953 may be required for lizard salvage and relocation.

The project does not include an activity that will occur on land returned under a Treaty settlement.

The applicant is engaging with mana whenua in the region and specific consultation with Ngāti Tu, Ngāti Manuhiakai and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust.

Terrestrial Biodiversity – Avifauna

The application notes that bird strike has the potential to be an adverse effect but this is mitigated by their view that the site is not located on a key route for migratory birds and that the turbines are arranged in a north-south alignment further reducing the exposure to migration. Given these points the applicant considers there is no need for avoidance or mitigation measures.

Given not all pathways of NZ migrants e.g., oystercatchers, wrybills or international migratory birds are known it is unclear how the applicant has come to this conclusion. As such it is recommended that the applicant appropriately account for potential effect on migratory birds by developing a Bird Collision Monitoring Plan to measure the rates of bird mortality from collisions. This monitoring should be tailored around migration periods and potential bird collision for at least the first three years of the projects operation. The bird collision monitoring should be measured against mortality predictions for individual species with review thresholds. It is also recommended that mitigation and/or compensation for bird mortalities be implemented.

Terrestrial Biodiversity – Herpetofauna

The application (Appendix J.1 – Ecological Assessment) notes that lizard species may be present in the hedgerows and that parts of the hedgerows will be removed as part of the project. The Ecological Assessment recommends that a lizard survey is conducted (by a suitably conducted ecologist) prior to any works, and if lizards are detected, that a lizard management plan should be prepared. The Ecological Assessment also notes that a Wildlife Act permit would be required for any lizard salvage and/ or relocation.

In reviewing the proposed conditions (Appendix O), it does not appear that the recommendation for a lizard survey and subsequent lizard management plan, has been carried through.

It is the Director-General's view that the recommendations in the Ecological Assessment (Appendix J.1) need to be included in the conditions.

Cultural Effects

The Department supports the position of Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust regarding the protection of the unique Ngāruahine cultural landscape.

Thank you for your comments