



22 May 2025

To whom it may concern
Fast Track Approvals Act – Referrals
Ministry for the Environment
By way of upload to the Fast Track Portal

Tēnā koe,

FTAA-2504-1041: Southland Wind Farm: Comments on Referral Request under Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Thank you for giving notice that a request for referral to the Fast Track approvals process has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure. Hokonui Rūnanga acknowledges that comments are due on **26 May 2025**.

Hokonui Rūnanga is one of the Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Papatipu Rūnanga whose takiwā includes the site the application is within. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku consists of Te Rūnanga o Awarua, Hokonui Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga O Ōraka Aparima, and Waihōpai Rūnanga, who together with Otago Papatipu Rūnaka hold mana whenua status within this rohe.

The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 give recognition to the status of Papatipu Rūnanga as kaitiaki and mana whenua of the natural resources within their takiwā boundaries.

Hokonui Rūnanga can confirm that the area within which the project is to be located is an area of deep connection and long association for Ngāi Tahu. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have been engaging extensively with Contact Energy Limited on the Southland Wind Farm for some time. That engagement has resulted in agreement between Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Contact, both in relation to consent

conditions for the project, and (via a confidential agreement) in relation to matters that cannot be mitigated by way of consent conditions.

Hokonui Rūnanga, similar to Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, supports this referral application, provided the referral application is on the same basis as the application made to the EPA for the Southland Wind Farm Project, originally processed under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting). It is our understanding that Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku (through Te Ao Marama Inc) and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu will continue to work closely with Contact throughout the Fast-track Approvals Act process.

Hokonui Rūnanga reserves the right to provide further comment if the application is referred to the fast-track process.

Nāku noa, nā,



Terry Nicholas

General Manager – Hokonui Rūnanga