



TE AO MĀRAMA INC.

9 May 2025

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

Tēna 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. We acknowledge that comments are due **on 26 May 2025**.

Te Ao Mārama Inc. provide comments on behalf of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku, the kaitiaki 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 Oraka 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 (the TRONT Act) and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (the Settlement Act) give recognition to the status of Papatipu Rūnanga as kaitiaki and mana whenua of the natural resources within their takiwā boundaries.

As recorded in the Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu, the Ngāi Tahu Settlement marked a turning point and a beginning for a “new age of co-operation”. In doing so, the Crown acknowledged the ongoing partnership between the Crown and Ngāi Tahu and the expectation that any policy or management regime would be developed and implemented in partnership with Ngāi Tahu.

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 – Principles and Provisions

The Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 requires applicants to identify the relevant principles and provisions of Treaty Settlements. These are the foundations and guiding concepts of what the Ngāi Tahu Settlements are based on. There are a number of principles and provisions contained within these Settlements.

Te Ao Marama Inc considers the following key principles are required to be recognized by this application (but not limited to):

- Ngāi Tahu holds and exercises rangatiratanga within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā.
- The Crown and agents of the crown must act in good faith.
- All areas and places within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā are important and form part of an entwined network of values, places and resources which are relevant to Ngāi Tahu tribal history, contemporary values and the future of the tribe.

- Settlement provided a basis for continuing evolution from which Ngāi Tahu can express its ancestral relationship with the Ngāi Tahu takiwā into the future.

For the purposes of this part of the Fast Track referral process, we can confirm the applicant has received advice on the above and has referenced consideration of those in the preparation of the engagement with Ngāi Tahu entities and overall design of the project.

In summary we confirm 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 have been engaging extensively with Contact on the Southland Wind Farm for some time. That engagement has resulted in agreement between Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga 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.

Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga support 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). We will continue to work closely with Contact throughout the Fast-track Approvals Act process.

We reserve the right to provide further comment if the application is referred to the fast-track process.

Nākau noa nā



Dean Whaanga
Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa Taiao



**TE AO
MĀRAMA INC.**

CC: Ngā Rūnanga – Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs