



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 2) 2022 - Rotokauri North & Tuahei Solar Farm

Portfolio                      Environment

On 8 February 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that the Minister for the Environment has decided under section 24 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 to accept the applications for referral of the following projects to a panel:
  - 1.1      Harmony Energy New Zealand Limited's Tauhei Solar Farm project;
  - 1.2      Rotokauri North Holdings Limited's Rotokauri North – Stage 1 project;
- 2        **noted** that Harmony Energy New Zealand Limited's Tauhei Solar Farm project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18(3) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and will help achieve the Act's purpose, as required by section 18(2) of the Act, by:
  - 2.1      generating employment by providing approximately 568 direct full-time equivalent jobs in engineering, design and construction over a two-year period and approximately seven direct full-time equivalent jobs on an on-going basis;
  - 2.2      providing infrastructure that will contribute to improving economic and employment outcomes;
  - 2.3      assisting New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low greenhouse gas emissions economy by increasing New Zealand's total amount of renewable energy generation;
  - 2.4      progressing faster than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes;
- 3        **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 2) 2022 requires Harmony Energy New Zealand Limited to provide an integrated transport assessment, a solar photovoltaic glint and glare assessment, an ecological assessment, a landscape and natural character assessment, an acoustic assessment, and information about arrangements for the occupation of the road reserve and connection to the national electricity grid to an expert consenting panel, as detailed in Appendix three to the submission under CAB-22-SUB-0012;

- 4 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 2) 2022 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider Harmony Energy New Zealand Limited's Tauhei Solar Farm project to seek comments from Transpower New Zealand Limited and the Minister for Energy and Resources, as listed in Appendix three;
- 5 **noted** that Rotokauri North Holdings Limited's Rotokauri North – Stage 1 project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18(3) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and will help achieve the Act's purpose, as required by section 18(2) of the Act, by:
- 5.1 having positive effects on social wellbeing by generating employment, increasing housing supply and contributing to a well-functioning urban environment;
  - 5.2 generating employment by providing approximately 100 direct full-time equivalent jobs over a five-year planning and construction period;
  - 5.3 increasing housing supply by 40 residential units and enabling future construction of 380 residential units;
  - 5.4 progressing faster than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes;
- 6 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 2) 2022 requires Rotokauri North Holdings Limited to provide a planning assessment, an integrated transport assessment, an ecological assessment, an infrastructure capacity assessment, and a stormwater and hydrology assessment to an expert consenting panel, as detailed in Appendix four;
- 7 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 2) 2022 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider Rotokauri North Holdings Limited's Rotokauri North – Stage 1 project to seek comments from the Associate Minister for the Environment (Urban Policy), Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and the Rotokauri North Tangata Whenua Working Group, as listed in Appendix four;
- 8 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 2) 2022 [PCO 24467/2.0];
- 9 **noted** that on 27 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to waivers of the 28-day rule so that Orders in Council made under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 can come into force as soon as they are notified in the New Zealand Gazette [CAB-20-MIN-0353];
- 10 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 2) 2022 will come into force on 11 February 2022.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet