Response ID ANON-URZ4-5F8U-W

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-01 12:41:17

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
NZ Windfarms

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Adam Radich

3 What is your job title

Job title:
General Manager, Operations and Development

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:
s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

s 9(2)(a)

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

Yes

Organisation:
Aurecon

Contact person:
Stephen Gascoigne

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

Email address:
s 9(2)(a)

Job title:
Manager, Environment and Planning

Please enter your service address:

s 9(2)(a)

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

The Project Site under investigation for the proposed Kohi Wind Farm is located to the immediate north of Waverley township; 11.5km to the east of Pātea, 33km south-east of Hawera and 37km north-west of Whanganui. The Project Site comprises an area located in the Taranaki Region, New Zealand.

A Project Location Plan illustrating the Project Site boundary relative to key features and at a contextual regional level is included at Appendix A.

The Project Site is generally framed by the Waverley Domain greenbelt to the south (Fookes Street), with Medlicott Road, Kohi Road and a tributary of the Whenuakura River to the west, with Mangatangi Road and Braemore Road forming the eastern boundary. Property access (or 'feeder') roads are spread throughout the two plateaus split by the Kohi Stream, including multiple Paper Roads.

Turbines will be predominantly located within the plateaus and gully spurs that are actively pastoral farmed within the Project Site (subject to design and environmental investigations), and all infrastructure located entirely within the South Taranaki District territorial area and jurisdiction of Taranaki Regional Council.

Project Location is shown in the drawings located in Appendix A.

File upload:
KohiWF_Appendix A - Drawings.pdf was uploaded

Upload file here:
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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

upload file:
KohiWF_Appendix B_Record of Titles.pdf was uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Records of Title are included at Appendix B of the attached application and included above.

Current legal landowners, property legal descriptions and registered addresses (where applicable) are summarised in the table contained in Section 1 of the attached application. However, for clarity, property owners are listed below;

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

NZ Windfarms has established an early partnership with Kohi Farms 2023 Limited to investigate and thereafter design, consent and construct a wind farm at the Project Site – the Kohi Wind Farm project (the Project). Kohi Farms 2023 Limited is the majority landowner across the Project Site; owning approximately 30% of the underlying land within which an envelope for the Project is proposed to be established.

NZ Windfarms and Kohi Farms 2023 Limited have signed an s 9(2)(b)(ii), allowing NZ Windfarms to undertake all intrusive and non-intrusive environmental investigations to determine the feasibility of constructing a wind farm at the Project Site. In addition, contractual agreements are in the process of being developed for remaining landowners in the Project Site. The arrangement with Kohi Farms 2023 Limited supports physical access and legal access to the National Grid which runs through the Project Site and has the potential to host a new grid connection (with further design and geotechnical site investigations required).

Subject to the Project being scheduled in the Fast-track Approvals Bill, NZ Windfarms is in a position to progressively sign further contractual agreements (regarding final turbine / infrastructure royalties and lease matters) with the underlying landowners, enabling the physical development of the Project.

For NZ Windfarms, the Project represents a complementary addition to its expanding portfolio of wind farm developments in New Zealand and further cements the company's position as an eminent private generator of renewable electricity in the New Zealand wind generation industry.

The Project Site has an optimal position to host turbines at the indicative size as it is located in the Class 2 and 3 area within the Region (evidence by its proximity to Waipipi Wind Farm). It also benefits from its proximity to key National Grid transmission infrastructure, a supportive District and Regional level regulatory framework and a network of formed and paper roads that lead to the central ridgeline being the suitable location for turbines. While not integral to the ability to implement the Project, NZ Windfarms has engaged a project team with all necessary resource consent disciplines currently assigned to its Te Rere Hau projects which can be rapidly mobilised to advance detailed consent design, reporting and Management Plans should the Project be supported into the fast-track consenting and approvals pathway.

NZ Windfarms Board of Directors have provided a Funding Statement (confidential, and not available for public release) to further demonstrate the ability of the Applicant to undertake the works; attached at Appendix C.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:
Kohi Wind Farm

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The construction, operation, and maintenance of a new wind farm (Kohi Wind Farm), north of Waverley, comprising up to 61 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of approximately 220m, substations, internal transmission infrastructure (including pylons and/or pi-poles where required) and connection to the National Grid.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

Purpose:
The purpose of the Project is to construct, operate and maintain a new wind farm (Kohi Wind Farm) by installing up to 61 new wind turbines; maximising the efficiency and productivity of the wind resource.
The Project will contribute immediate and ongoing economic benefits and employment to the New Zealand economy, will contribute towards the further decarbonisation of the electricity generation industry and will assist with New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy.

Objectives:
- To efficiently leverage the high value natural wind resource at the Project Site and the immediate proximity to the National Grid to significantly increase the supply of renewable energy from the wind farm to the National Grid;
- To utilise the Fast-Track Approvals Bill (and any subsequent Act) to accelerate the resource consenting process and enable the construction and release of Project investment and benefits faster than traditional Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, Wildlife Act 1953, or other available two-stage processes;
- To generate employment and economic benefits and continue to drive investment within South Taranaki and the wider Taranaki Region; and
- To make a meaningful contribution to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and enable the transition towards a low-emissions economy in accordance with Central Government Policy.

Activities involved in the Project:
The Project will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Works to construct and operate up to 61 new three bladed turbines (subject to selection of a final turbine model) with a blade tip height of approximately 220m.
- Works to construct, widen and/or upgrade existing site access roads, bypass roads (during blade and component-lift procedures) and to establish new onsite access roads including the placement of culverts.
- External public road improvements to facilitate access to the Project Site and the transport of over-dimension turbine and substation components.
- Works to construct new turbine foundations and permanent pads, and temporary construction hardstands for blade-lift.
- Works to construct associated infrastructure including hardstand areas, underground electrical and telecommunication cabling, overhead internal transmission lines and installing substation plants to the Point of Connection (to the National Grid).
- Temporary component storage and laydown sites, temporary construction office / compound, crane and plant maintenance sites and a concrete batching compound.
- Bulk ancillary works including earthworks, vegetation clearance and forestry clearance, ecological habitat enhancement and temporary water takes.

In addition, the Project will include a micro-siting allowance of approximately 200m (as part of any later approvals process) being a limited radius in which to adjust a final turbine location. This radius will be established by the conclusions of the technical acoustic, ecological and landscape and visual effects assessments, external boundaries, ground conditions and ecological setbacks as necessary.

Turbine Options
The feasibility stage design of the Project has been developed on the basis of a maximum 61 turbine layout set by the spacing requirements for models with a blade height of approximately 220m. This forms an envelope within which the turbines must be sited and fit and will be subject to final approval.

The control for determining effects, in addition to the turbine sound power level, is set by the maximum height of the blade tip above ground level and the blade clearance above ground level, within which the hub height and blade length may be adjusted. This envelope will ultimately be specified in conditions of approval as part of the substantive application process.

Promoting a flexible envelope to turbine sizing at the approval stage enables competition between the available turbine suppliers and maximises potential generation capacity from the Project Site. This approach has been utilised at Te Rere Hau and is becoming commonplace within wind farm developments currently progressing under the RMA within New Zealand.

The envelope presented in this listing application ensures that where a particular aspect of the Project layout has an issue derived from turbine sound power level or size that cannot be resolved, an alternative type of turbine can be presented; all of which will be considered by the relevant environmental specialists advising NZ Windfarms.

Grid Connection
NZ Windfarms is exploring physical options for connection of the proposed substation from the Project into Transpower's Brunswick – Stratford (BRK-SFD) A and B (220 kV) high voltage transmission lines and will develop a fixed proposal through the Connection Investigation process managed by Transpower. The BRK-SFD A and B line consists of a minimum of four circuits, with options currently including a direct hard-tee injection from the substation, or an undercrossing before teeing into the line. The second option requires an independent pole or pylon and associated ground / structure clearances.

An envelope that provides flexibility for all connection options will be included in any later application and the actual and potential environmental effects addressed at that stage.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

NZ Windfarms is not proposing any formal staging of the Project.

The construction of the Project is a standalone activity and can commence following a detailed engineering design and procurement process; subject to receiving favourable resource consents / approvals and associated conditions.

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

The following resource consents, permits and authorities are expected to be required (under the current statutory approval regime) and would be sought as a bundled application submitted to the Expert Consenting Panel should the Project be listed under Schedule 2A of the Fast-track Approvals Act.

Resource Management Act 1991 approvals:

Under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020
- Construction of Specified Infrastructure as a Discretionary Activity including but not limited to the following activities:
- Vegetation clearance within, or within 10m from, a natural inland wetland;
- Earthworks or land disturbance within, or within a 10m setback from, a natural inland wetland;
- Earthworks or land disturbance outside a 10m, but within a 100m, setback from a natural inland wetland where the activity results, or is likely to result, in the complete or partial drainage of all or part of the natural inland wetland;
- The taking, use, damming, or diversion of water within, or within a 100m setback from, a natural inland wetland; and
- The placement, use, alteration, extension, or reconstruction of a culvert in, on, over, or under the bed of any river or connected area subject to conditions.

Under the National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011
- Soil disturbance of a Piece of Land potentially contaminated by agricultural activities in accordance with a Detailed Site Investigation and Draft Remedial Action Plan as a Controlled Activity.

Under the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki
- Take and Use of Surface water which does not comply with the permitted activity standards;
- Discharge of stormwater and sediment into surface water or onto or into land from soil disturbance activities which does not comply with the permitted activity conditions as a Controlled Activity
- Discharge of contaminants or water into surface water which does not comply with the permitted activity conditions as a Discretionary Activity;
- Drilling and/or construction of a well or bore into or onto land that does not meet the permitted activity conditions as a Discretionary Activity;
- Take and Use of water from a well or bore that does not meet the permitted (or controlled) activity conditions as a Discretionary Activity; and
- Construction, placement and use of a culvert or bridge in, on or over the bed of a river as a Discretionary Activity;

Under the South Taranaki District Plan
- Construction, Maintenance and Operation of a large-scale renewable electricity generation activity not located within the Outstanding Natural Character or Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes as a Discretionary Activity; and
- Activities which do not comply with the relevant noise standards as a Restricted Discretionary Activity.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 authorities:
- Authority to undertake an activity that will or may modify or destroy the whole or any part of any archaeological site or sites within a specified area of land, and application for a specified person to undertake the works subject to that authority.

Wildlife Act 1953 authorities:
- Authority (General) to disturb, catch, handle and / or release protected wildlife at one site, catch and / or hold protected wildlife for rehabilitation, or catch, handle and / or hold and release protected wildlife in accordance with translocation activities.

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

Resource consents including indicative approvals to be sought (as listed above) under the RMA are relevant to the following Regional and Territorial authorities;
- Taranaki Regional Council;
- South Taranaki District Council.

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

NZ Windfarms has been granted a land use resource consent for the establishment of up to two meteorological masts, for a maximum operational term of five years per mast with one mast exceeding the permitted height limit by 20m. This consent does not permit or otherwise enable any of the Project works specified in this listing application but will inform the Project design as it advances.

No other applications have been made by NZ Windfarms in relation to this Project.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Building consents under the Building Act 2004 will be sought from South Taranaki District Council for ancillary structures at any temporary site compound, permanent operations and maintenance compound and the substation. Wind turbines do not require building consent subject to design, installation, and certification by a Chartered Professional Engineer.

During construction, temporary road closures or prohibition of access will be required to parts of the local road and paper road network that traverses the Project Site. Formal processes to either formally stop a road or paper road, or to temporarily close a road under the requirements of a Construction Traffic Management Plan, will be subject to South Taranaki District Council resolutions under the Local Government Act 1974 (Schedule 10).

The Civil Aviation Rules (Part 77) require an application for proposals with a height of 60m or greater to be lodged with the Civil Aviation Authority no less than 90 days prior to the commencement of construction for the purpose of setting conditions on the design and operation of structures that may be a hazard within navigable airspace. That application, and additional consultation with Airways, will be completed prior to the lodgement of any approval application package consent for the Project.

Over-dimension permits will be sought from New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi to convey turbine blades, tower sections, nacelles, and transformers from the Port of Entry (Port Taranaki) to the Project Site. Permits will be secured and provided in conjunction with the Project's Construction Traffic Management Plan subject to any resource consent and final approved conditions.

Physical connection between any substation and Transpower's Brunswick – Stratford (BRK-SFD) A and B (220 kV) national grid transmission infrastructure will be required to be consented separately by Transpower under the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities 2008. This

process is facilitated by contracting Transpower to commence detailed investigation and procurement processes which is normally undertaken when the resource consent process has largely been completed.

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

NZ Windfarms holds sufficient cash resources and funding capability to resource all aspects of the approvals phase design and consenting activities as well as the following site preparation phases of works for the Project. Preliminary effects assessments and technical due diligence have been completed and can be readily expanded to inform the necessary consent and approval applications.

Should the Project be listed in the preferred Schedule 2 – Part A, it is expected that the application process (from start through to the decision by the Joint Ministers) can be completed by June 2026. The following dates indicate a prospective programme following that process:
- Detailed engineering design, certification, and completion of Transpower design process:
- Start June 2026, Completion June 2028;
- Final Investment Decision: December 2027
- Turbine procurement: June 2027
- Construction Works:
- Preparatory Works commence: August 2028
- Bulk earthworks commence: October 2028
- Completion of construction and commissioning: October 2030

It is expected that the conditions will allow certain enabling works activities to be commenced in preparation for bulk earthworks and foundation laying works. Some ecological survey and any capture and relocation activities have the potential to occur concurrent to detailed design.

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

Persons and/or organizations directly affected by the Project are limited to the following:
Local Authorities:
- Taranaki Regional Council;
- South Taranaki District Council.

Iwi Authorities and Treaty Settlement Entities:
-s 9(2)(a)

Underlying Landowners:
-s 9(2)(a)

-s 9(2)(a)
[redacted]

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

Local Authorities
NZ Windfarms and its advisors held a joint meeting with the Regulatory Manager(s) and Senior Consents Team representatives of Taranaki Regional Council and South Taranaki District Council (via Teams) on 15 April 2024. This meeting consisted of NZ Windfarms providing:
- An introduction to its team and background to its involvement in consenting and operating wind farms within New Zealand including under a fast-track process to date;
- An overview of the Kohi Wind Farm Project and concept design via its GIS platform;
- A briefing on the purpose of the Fast-Track Approvals Bill and the requirements of the listing application process in the Bill relevant to the Project; and
- A summary of the reasons for pursuing the listing process.

The response from the joint councils has been supportive in principle. The Council representatives acknowledged their commitment to working with NZ Windfarms on the review of any documents that could be shared at the time and suggested third-party relationships in the regional development space (such as Venture Taranaki) for NZ Windfarms to explore opportunities. The Councils further reiterated the supportive frameworks of their District and Regional policies for energy projects and confirmed this position at the executive level.

NZ Windfarms will look to establish a working group arrangement (as used on Te Rere Hau Wind Farm projects) with the councils and its specialist technical experts in the review of any application documents, including the development of draft conditions for consideration should the Project be listed.

Iwi Authorities and Treaty Settlement Entities:

Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi
Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi are the mandated Iwi Authority that represents the interests of the Iwi and a number of hapū including Ngāti Hinewaiata, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Tai and Ngā Ariki (Waitōtara).
NZ Windfarm contacted Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi on 12 April 2024 via email, providing a brief description of the Project, that NZ Windfarms was considering lodging an application for listing in the Fast-track Approvals Bill 2024, a description of what having a project listed within the Bill would enable and providing an opportunity to meet to discuss the Project and process. NZ Windfarms also sought advice from Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi on how to engage appropriately with their hapū. Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi responded to NZ Windfarms via email later that day confirming their availability and desire to hold an early hui to discuss the Project.

NZ Windfarms subsequently met with Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi on 18 April 2024. At this stage, responses from Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi are generally neutral to the Project and further engagement to share information on the Project as the concept design develops will be undertaken. In summary, Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi shared that they are focused on building the skills and capacity of current and future generations so that they are represented across all levels and roles in the renewable energy sector. This includes bringing and retaining indigenous intellectual property that supports a holistic approach to the sector, establishment of a technical and innovation hub and seeking opportunities for scholarships and training in the sector.

NZ Windfarms remains committed to establishing a strong relationship with Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi and to growing opportunities for Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi to be involved in the process. NZ Windfarms will ensure that Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi is kept informed of the fast-track process as this listing application is considered by the Fast-track Advisory Group and Ministers.

A copy of the correspondence sent to Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi is included at Appendix D.

Ngāti Ruanui
NZ Windfarms contacted Ngāti Ruanui on 18 April 2024 via email, providing a brief description of the Project, indicating that NZ Windfarms was considering lodging an application for listing in the Fast-track Approvals Bill 2024, a description of what having a project listed within the Bill will enable and providing an opportunity to meet to discuss the Project and process. At the time of drafting this application Ngāti Ruanui are yet to respond.

Correspondence related to this Project between NZ Windfarms and Ngāti Ruanui is included at Appendix D of this application.

Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (Lower Whanganui)
NZ Windfarms contacted Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (Lower Whanganui) on 18 April 2024 via email, providing a brief description of the Project, indicating that NZ Windfarms was considering lodging an application for listing in the Fast-track Approvals Bill 2024, a description of what having a project listed within the Bill will enable and providing an opportunity to meet to discuss the Project and process. At the time of drafting this application Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust are yet to respond.

A copy of the correspondence sent by NZ Windfarms to the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust is included at Appendix D.

Underlying Landowners:
NZ Windfarms has actively engaged with landowners that are either potential turbine hosts or are covered within the broader preliminary envelope of the Project Site since commencing early investigations in August 2023. This has included multiple in-person, phone calls and Teams meetings prior to lodgement of this application. All meetings have included subsequent email correspondence confirming the meeting and comments provided.

No less than 28 landowners are noted as active promotors of the Project (being in support) and remaining landowners (12) consulted prior to lodgement are neutral to the Project (i.e., not opposed and are wanting to continue active engagement and sharing of Project information when available). Engagement with landowners (including two persons uncontactable prior to lodgement of this listing application) will continue throughout the process in order to support any later approval application and to enable community responses to be considered throughout the concept design and layout / final turbine and infrastructure siting.

A Schedule of Landowner Consultation has been developed for the Project and will be maintained for any further engagement as the Project proceeds into an approval phase. A copy of this schedule summarising the number, type, and responses of landowner interactions to date is attached at Appendix D. Council and Iwi / Hapū engagement are also listed in the Schedule for completeness.
NZ Windfarms has engaged with LINZ, who are the responsible authority for the parcels owned by the Taranaki Scholarships Trust Board, administered by the Crown. LINZ has advised that a sublease will be required to establish any potential turbines and/or associated infrastructure subject to the application of the lessees. This sublease process will be undertaken concurrent to the later detailed approvals process.

Upload file here:
KohiWF_Appendix D_Consultation Records.pdf was uploaded

Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

No processes under the Public Works Act 1981 are required to facilitate the Project.

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

The following Te Tiriti o Waitangi Settlements apply to the Project Site:
- Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi Claims Settlement Act 2005;
- Ngāti Ruanui Claims Settlement Act 2003; and
- Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019

An outline of each Settlement and assessment of the Project against the principles and provisions of those Settlements (including Statutory Acknowledgement Areas) follows:

Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi Claims Settlement Act 2005
The Crown and Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi (including hapū Ngāti Hinewaiata, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Tai, Ngaa Ariki (Waitōtara)) signed a Deed of Settlement on 27 November 2003. The Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi historical claims resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992 and is made up of a package that includes:
- An agreed historical account and Crown acknowledgements, which form the basis for a Crown Apology to Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi;
- Cultural redress; and
- Financial and Commercial redress.

No private land was involved in the redress, only Crown assets.

The Claims Settlement Act includes Statutory Acknowledgements and Deeds of Recognition. The area of interest recognised in the Deed of Settlement includes the Project Site. The closest statutory acknowledgement area is the Whenuakura River. The Whenuakura River is located adjacent to, but not within the Project Site (which is serviced by a number of tributaries).

No redress in the Claims Settlement Act (2005) or Deed of Recognition affects natural and physical resources relevant to the Project or the Project Site.

Ngāti Ruanui Claims Settlement Act 2003
The Crown and Ngāti Ruanui signed a Deed of Settlement on 12 May 2001. The Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all Ngati Ruanui's historical claims resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992 and is made up of a package that includes;
- An apology from the Crown;
- Cultural redress; and
- Commercial redress.

No private land was involved in the redress, only Crown assets.

The Claims Settlement Act includes Statutory Acknowledgements and Deeds of Recognition. The area of interest recognised in the Deed of Settlement does not include the Project Site. The closest statutory acknowledgement area is the Whenuakura River. The Whenuakura River is located adjacent to, but not within the Project Site.

No redress in the Claims Settlement Act (2003) or Deed of Recognition affects natural and physical resources relevant to the Project or the Project Site.

Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019

The Crown and the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust signed an Agreement in Principle on 30 August 2019. This is now reflected in the enacted Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019. The Ngāti Rangi Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Rangi resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992, and is made up of a package that includes:
- An agreed historical account, Crown acknowledgements and apology.
- Cultural redress, including:
- Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika Framework (Whangaehu River) redress,
- Conservation redress,
- Crown minerals redress,
- A cultural fund, and
- Relationship redress.
- Financial and commercial redress.

No private land was involved in the redress, only Crown assets.

The Claims Settlement Act includes Statutory Acknowledgements and Deeds of Recognition. The area of interest recognised in the Deed of Settlement does not include the Project Site. There are no statutory acknowledgements within the Project Site.

No redress in the Claims Settlement Act (2019) or Deed of Recognition affects natural and physical resources relevant to the Project or the Project Site.

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

Yes

If yes, what are they?:

Lot 4 DP 3135 (WN16B/194) owned by The Proprietors of Parininihi Ki Waitōtara Block lies within the scope of the broader Project effects envelope and has therefore been included in the general description of the Project Site; however, physical works or the siting of any wind farm infrastructure is not required or proposed in relation to this parcel. This parcel is subject to Schedule 1 of the Māori Reserved Land Amendment Act 1997, but is a Freehold Title.

No marae or identified wāhi tapu sites or areas are contained within the Project Site.

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

No

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Upload your assessment if necessary:
NZWF - Application for a Sched. 2 Part A Listing_Fast-Track Approvals Bill 2024 - Kohi Wind Farm - Final for Lodgement (Fully Combined - Reduced).pdf was uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

A number of preliminary technical assessments have been undertaken by independent consultants engaged by NZ Windfarms to inform this application as to whether there is potential for the Project to have significant adverse environmental effects. Regard has also been given to how the Project meets the purpose of the Bill.

The following provides a general description of the potential adverse environmental effects of tFast-track Advisory Group's recommendations to the Joint Ministers. For the purpose of this assessment, a baseline turbine layout was developed consisting of 61 turbines with a tip height of approximately 220m in an optimal configuration to avoid wake or curtailment between turbines. All technical assessments provided are based on this preliminary layout, however these sites are subject to a further detailed evaluation / optimisation process and the layout will be refined prior to any subsequent approvals process.

Economic Effects
Economic impacts of the Project have been assessed by MartinJenkins . The Project will result in significant regional and national benefits in terms of both jobs and contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A summary of these benefits is set out in response to the eligibility criteria in Section 7 of this application and therefore not repeated here. The full impact assessment is attached for reference at Appendix E.

Landscape and Visual Effects
A preliminary landscape and visual effects assessment has been prepared by Stephen Brown of Brown NZ Limited to support the feasibility works for the Project Site and this listing application. While the assessment was completed on the basis of a 205m tip height, the assessment notes that the heights are indicative and could vary by between 5 – 10%. The overall tip height sought in this application is 220m (which sits comfortably in the middle of this indicative range). This assessment is included in Appendix F.

The Project Site is located directly north of Waverley, straddling Kohi Road, which runs in a north-south direction through the wind farm site. Two other roads, also generally aligned from north to south, run through the site: Karahaki Road near the Whenuakura River, which bounds the western side of the site, and Mangatangi Road becoming Braemore Road closer to its eastern edge. The Project Site climbs through a series of alluvial terraces that are flanked by steeply down-cut stream corridors and, to the north-east, Lake Moumahaki. These terraces climb steadily towards the outer foothills of the Matemateonga Range that, north of the junction of Kohi Road with Okahutiria Road, becoming increasingly steep and bush covered. As such, the Project Site progressively traverses four major terraces, with the transition from each 'step' to the next marked by a series of steep escarpments and slopes.

Proposed turbines near Waverley township sit on gently rolling terrain that mainly comprises open pasture used for dairy and beef farming, while land to the north comprises small hilltops surrounded by steep-sided ridges and valley systems that transition from paddocks employed for sheep and beef farming into pockets of pine forest and large swathes of scrub and native forest.

Throughout the Project Site there is residential development, comprising farmhouses as well as small clusters of houses. In the wider landscape, there is also the Waipipi Wind Farm, which is approximately 8km south-west of Waverley. Waipipi comprises 48 turbines with tip heights of approximately 150m, which sit on the coastal plain between State Highway 3 and the edge of the Taranaki Bight. The landscape climbs gradually and does not form a distinctive skyline. Unlike Waipipi, the Project's turbines would not be etched against the flat grey plane of the Taranaki Bight. Instead, they would be interspersed through, intermixed with farmland, shelterbelts and gradually rising terrain that is devoid of any obvious features or distinction in its own right.

The Landscape and Visual Assessment considered the Project from various viewpoints. To summarise, it is considered that the Project would have no appreciable impact on that landscape's biophysical values and would have a typically low to moderate level of impact on its perceived character, values, and associative / amenity values – with a maximum moderate-high level for a few specific locations.
It is anticipated that the Project would become part of the rural production landscape spread across the broad mantle of Waverley's coastal plain and the terraces north of the township. Any changes to the landscape and amenity values of the wider landscape around the Project Site would be limited, including those in relation to the township of Waverley. As such, the Project is considered to be generally acceptable and appropriate from a landscape standpoint.

It is recognised that there are three residential properties and five dwellings within the Project Site, where the potential amenity effects are predicted to be High. While this translates to a Significant level of RMA effect, this will be actively mitigated through turbine micro-siting. NZ Windfarms is actively engaging with these landowners and to date they are generally supportive of the Project and this engagement will continue through detailed design. The potential effects of the wind farm on these residential properties will be examined in more detail as part of any approvals process.

Ecological Effects
NZ Windfarms has engaged Wildland Consultants to review the Project and prepare a preliminary desktop assessment of the ecological constraints of the Project Site. A copy of that assessment is included as Appendix G.

There are seven vegetation and habitats identified on site. The majority of the Project Site has been assessed as exotic pasture used for grazing and accordingly is of low ecological value. Three vegetation types are of potentially moderate to high ecological value and have the potential to be impacted or cleared during construction: being indigenous forest and scrub, mixed indigenous-exotic scrub, and potential wetlands.

Although there are few indigenous fauna records located across the Project Site, it is likely that indigenous fauna utilise habitats within the Project Site. Site visits are required to survey for Threatened and/or At-Risk plants, avifauna, bats, and lizards. 19 of the 26 species which are moderately or highly likely to be present in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm are Not Threatened species, with seven species identified to be Threatened or At Risk.

The construction phase and the post-construction operation of the Project are likely to have adverse effects on indigenous vegetation and habitat types, avifauna, bats, lizards, and freshwater fish and invertebrates. However, the baseline turbine layout will be subject to further detailed evaluation / optimisation and will be refined prior to any subsequent approvals process. Consequently, repositioning within the Project Site of some wind turbines, roads, laydown areas, and other works to directly avoid the clearance of vegetation that provides important fauna habitat (indigenous forest and scrub and mixed indigenous-exotic scrub) would suitably avoid or reduce adverse effects on indigenous fauna.

Wetland delineation is also required for wetlands that meet the definition of 'natural inland wetland' as per the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM 2020) that are within 100m of the proposed development footprint. After completing ground-truthing for natural inland wetlands, and where partial clearance of these features cannot be avoided, any effects can be managed through a suitable offset or compensation mechanism. A robust sediment management plan will be employed for all disturbance activities which will effectively avoid discharges to these features. Avifauna field surveys will be undertaken to confirm which bird species utilise the Project Site augmenting existing databases. Impacts on bird species can be mitigated by avoiding vegetation clearance and construction during the breeding season (September–March) and checking for nests prior to any clearance. Based on the current knowledge of the avifauna present, and the proximity to other wind farm sites, development and use of the Project is unlikely to result in significant adverse effects on avifauna.

Overall, the Preliminary Ecological Assessment considers that there are relatively few ecological constraints to the establishment and operation of a wind farm at the Project Site
Subject to further ground-based survey work and detailed design progression, any adverse ecological effects arising from the Project will be able to be appropriately managed with the implementation of an Ecological Management Plan which also addresses biosecurity management.
Overall, it is considered that any potential adverse ecological effects arising from the Project will be able to appropriately managed.

Acoustic Effects
NZ Windfarms has engaged Marshall Day Acoustics to review the concept design for the Project as described above. A generic turbine model with un-serrated blades and a sound power level of 107 dBA and a conservative additional 2 dB was applied in the assessment. Other turbines are available with sound power levels 3 to 5 dB quieter, so this is a conservative assessment which would allow a relatively broad scope for turbine selection.

The preliminary acoustic assessment and modelling results for the purposes of determining likely windfarm noise contours and identifying potentially affected noise sensitive receivers are attached (Appendix H). Having regard to the noise limits under NZS 6808:2010 Acoustics - Wind Farm Noise, the following limits were set: 40 dBA for properties not involved in the Project, with the requirement to address significant noise effects originating where non-involved properties are included inside the 35 dBA contour. The results of the assessment indicate:
- The Project avoids significant noise impacts on dense areas of population but does have a large number of dwellings within its noise footprint. These dwellings are expected to form part of the Project and accordingly may be subject to elevated noise levels to an appropriate degree. NZ Windfarms is actively engaging with these landowners and to date they are generally supportive of the Project and this engagement will continue through detailed design.
- To reduce noise contours related to the properties central to the Project Site, mitigation options such as selecting a turbine model with a sound power level of 104 dBA or less to implementing serrated blades will ensure that unreasonable noise can be avoided.
- There is unlikely to be cumulative noise effects with Waipipi Wind Farm.
Overall, subject to further consideration and implementation of one or more of the above mitigations, the Project will not have significant adverse noise effects and is expected to comply with NZS 6808:2010 requirements.

Erosion and Sediment Control Effects
Any resource consent applications to be sought for the Project will be accompanied by a comprehensive Effects Assessment and Erosion and Sediment Control Management Plan prepared by a competent certified erosion control practitioner.

Actual or potential adverse effects attributed to erosion and sedimentation originate from activities including bulk earthworks and spoil disposal, construction of temporary and permanent laydown areas, vegetation removal, tracking and the batching and discharge of concrete for use in turbine and substation foundations. Earthworks and other activities anticipated for the Project are commonplace in major developments within the wider Region (and adjacent Regions) and management techniques anticipated to be employed have been developed and tested on comparative large-scale projects. These activities do not necessitate any bespoke or high-risk management options.

The earthworks, as currently anticipated, are of a nature and scale that can be appropriately managed using current best practice erosion and sediment control techniques detailed in Auckland Council Guideline Document 2016/005 'Erosion and Sediment Control Guideline for Land Disturbing Activities in the Auckland Region' (GD05). These are considered more conservative and responsive to the receiving terrain and conditions at the Project Site than under Taranaki Regional Council's adoption of Waikato Regional Council's 'Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities' TR2009/02 document.

It is anticipated that a high level of environmental compliance can be achieved, and that any effects on downstream receiving environments can be limited such that they are minor or negligible. The highest risk effects, such as those associated with concrete batching and use, can be avoided through onsite containment.

Land Transport Network Effects
Actual and potential effects of the Project on the land transport network primarily relate to network efficiency, condition, and safety of the local road network; including for residents, pedestrian, and cycle-oriented users of the network.

Transport impacts during wind farm development are predominantly temporary impacts over the construction period where intensive activities significantly above the baseline movements of residential and farming land uses occur. In addition, the effects (prior to mitigation) from the transport of over-dimension and / or over-weight turbine and substation components can be more than minor but are not significant.

Options for management of effects associated with construction trip generation increases and network impacts will include, but are not limited to, the

following:
- Turbine Component Transport Management Plan and permit obtained through NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi;
- Spreading component transport over an extended period of four to six weeks and prioritising night-time transport;
- Undertaking any localised pavement widening, marking and signage improvements to primary and secondary access routes;
- Temporary closure of public and paper road areas to through traffic; and
- Encouraging carpooling / group transport alternatives when procuring Contractors.
Overall, construction generated impacts will be minor. A comprehensive Integrated Traffic Impact Assessment will be submitted alongside any resource consent application.
Impacts on the transport network are ultimately limited to a fixed time period. Operationally, the Project will have minimal impact limited to observational, general operations and maintenance activities.

Archaeological Effects
The Project Site contains a number of mapped or recorded pre-European archaeological sites or find locations; however, due to the intensive working environment of the site (e.g., ploughing, disturbance due to forestry, tracking and grazing) it is expected that any surface-level archaeological material may be heavily modified or destroyed. Additional / residual sub-surface material may be present and / or discovered during works and, as such, a full archaeological assessment by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist will be undertaken prior to the lodgement of any approvals application for the Project. This review and assessment will take into account involvement of Iwi / Hapū interests in the Project Site.

Any application will also include specifications for the recording and handling of discovered archaeological material prior to removal under a Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act Authority.
Any actual or potential archaeological effects are likely to be less than minor, subject to these provisions.

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Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

A detailed National Policy Statement (NPS) and National Environmental Standard (NES) analysis is included at Appendix I of this application. Summaries of the applicable assessments are included below:

NPS on Freshwater Management 2020
- Provided the Proposal is designed appropriately to avoid streams and wetlands where possible, and best practice environmental controls are implemented, it is not anticipated that there would be significant impacts on freshwater quality, or that the NPS FM 2020 would create a barrier to consenting the Project. Engagement with Iwi / Hapū is fundamentally required to address compatibility with Policy 1, with detailed ecological assessment and classification and delineation of wetlands required prior to lodgement of any Impact Assessment. Best practice erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to minimise sediment occurring within the waterways, connecting to the wider Whenuakura River and Kohi Stream catchments.
- While NZ Windfarms do not have pre-existing relationships with Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi, Ngāti Ruanui or Ngāti Rangi (through the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust), NZ Windfarms will seek to develop these through Project engagement, the undertaking of cultural impact assessment(s), technical surveys (where practicable) to provide archaeological and ecological advice, as well as conditions workshops and application review. NZ Windfarms will continue to provide Project information to all Iwi / Hapū with interests and associations in the Project Area in order to ensure cultural values are provided for in any future fast track approvals application process.

NPS on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011
- Amendments are pending to this legislation and include stronger and more directive policy in relation to the important role of renewable electricity generation activities in achieving emission reduction targets and mitigation of climate change. In addition, the NPS seeks to provide further direction on amenity effects, including allowing activities where there are potential adverse effects on local amenity values, so long as effects are avoided, remedied, or mitigated to the extent practicable.
- Of relevance to the Project Site, the NPS introduces new policy direction, recognising and providing for Māori interests, including early, meaningful engagement and supporting tangata whenua aspirations. Further engagement with Iwi / Hapū to address policy alignment will be undertaken during the consenting phase of the Project.
- Based on the conclusions of the Preliminary Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment, the effects of the Proposal are below the Significant threshold. The Project will have a very low level of effect in relation to the biophysical values of the landscape and a low to moderate level of effect on its perceived character, values, and associative / amenity values. In relation to amenity effects, the Project will have a moderate level of effects in relation to amenity values derived from changes to the perceived rural character of the environment irrespective of the visibility of the turbines. While the preliminary assessment notes limited properties internal to the wind farm that have the potential to be subject to high amenity effects in term of visual over-dominance, shadow flicker, and changes to the pleasantness and aesthetic coherence of the landscape, further detailed onsite assessment is required and will likely reduce these impacts. NZ Windfarms is actively engaging with potentially affected landowners and to date they are generally supportive of the Project and this engagement will continue through detailed design.

NPS on Electricity Transmission 2008
 The NPS ET effectively permits the growth and upgrade of the National Grid network subject to limited considerations or controls. It is acknowledged that further consultation and engagement will need to be undertaken with Transpower to ensure that the Project is carried out in a manner that does not

impact Transpower assets, and a connection application process has already been commenced by NZ Windfarms. Co-lodgement with Transpower to utilise the NPS ET is considered an option to accelerate the investigations process and will be canvassed with this party.

NPS for Highly Productive Land 2022
- The majority of the Project Site is considered to be highly productive land and varies between land use classes LUC1, LUC2 and LUC3.
- Any wind farm activities that do take place on highly productive land will have a limited footprint, are expected to rehabilitate temporarily disturbed surfaces following construction, and will generally allow productive land uses to continue. Further, the NPS-HPL provides that where there is a functional need to be on such land (which is relevant here given the location of the Class 2 and 3 wind resource), and it is for the expansion of specified infrastructure (the wind farm would likely fall within this definition), the land use would not be considered inappropriate.
- Considering the national importance given to renewable electricity activities under other national policies, it is not expected the NPS HPL would create a barrier to consenting the Project, subject to demonstrating functional and compelling need requirements.

NES for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011
- A Detailed Site Investigation will be progressed to confirm there are no prior or current land uses identified through historical aerial photography that may bring the NES CS into play, to identify (through intrusive testing) whether contaminant hotspots exist at certain historic use locations, and to otherwise confirm whether accidental discovery and remediation protocols employed at hot spot locations will be a suitable solution (to be subject to consent conditions).

NES for Freshwater 2020
- It is considered that the Project will meet the definition of specified infrastructure, qualifying under (a) lifeline utility and / or (b) regionally significant infrastructure. Under such circumstances, resource consent can be sought as a Discretionary Activity for a range of soil and vegetation disturbance works, drainage and water take and use within or adjacent to a natural inland wetland.
- Consent is likely to be required for any installation of culverts (potentially required for the upgrading of the site access) and for works within 100m of a large network of unverified wetlands that border the Whenuakura River.
- Detailed ecological assessment and classification and delineation of wetlands will be undertaken by the Project's ecological consultants prior to lodgement of any Impact Assessment and resource consent application.

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Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Project will progress through a significantly faster process by being listed under Schedule 2A of the Fast-track Approvals Bill 2024 as opposed to utilising the standard RMA framework.

Subject to the Project being listed in the priority schedule (Schedule 2A), the resultant fast-track process is estimated to be completed (to point of decision) in approximately 12 months; considerably faster than the standard RMA process. This includes time expended on preparing the necessary application documents and detailed Management Plans to obtain all approvals listed in response to Section 2 of this application, and the completion of the Panel Review and Recommendation process.

Historically, under the RMA, wind farms and associated infrastructure have taken on average between 20 and 24 months to obtain resource consents via Regional and District Council hearings processes. This timeframe excludes Environment Court appeals (and any subsequent appeals) which are frequent and can delay the ability of developers and Gen-tailers to proceed into construction for a significant period (sometimes several years).

While the Project could proceed through the two-stage fast-track consents process that remains 'live' under the now repealed Natural and Built Environments Act 2023, a significant number of projects are understood to be currently at the referrals stage and are progressing very slowly through that process. It is likely there would be resultant delays (at Panel appointment stage and in preparing, lodging, and processing stages of both referral and consenting stages) that would result in decisions on the Project being significantly behind the anticipated timeline of a single stage approvals process.

NZ Windfarms has noted significant reductions in consenting costs between traditional hearings processes and the Covid-19 Recovery Fast-track Consenting Act 2020 process (up to a 65% reduction – mostly associated with expert panel costs). Considering the process and timeframes sought by the Bill, further cost efficiencies will likely be realised especially with the combined application process.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

Listing of the Project under Schedule 2A will enable the Project to accelerate into a consenting / multi-approvals phase; in particular due to the consultation and environmental assessments completed to date by NZ Windfarms that can be re-framed and expanded into approval-ready documentation and supporting engagement.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Central government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

The NPS on Renewable Electricity Generation came into force in 2011. The stated objective of the NPS is to "recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation". By having renewable energy generation activities elevated at the NPS level, the Government is sending a clear signal that the Project, and other similar developments, should be prioritised and adequately provided for at the legislative level.
It is understood that the Government is also proposing further changes to the NPS-REG to better enable the consenting of renewable energy facilities including wind.

In addition to the above, the following documents have been assessed as relevant non-statutory Government policy relevant to the Project:

New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy 2017-2022
The New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy 2017-2022 (NZEECS) sets the overarching policy direction for the promotion of energy efficiency, conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy. It is acknowledged that this strategy expired as of mid-2022, but no updated version has as yet been released.

The goal of the NZEECS is identified as: New Zealand has an energy productive and low emissions economy.

There are three objectives, one for each key group of energy users (businesses, individuals, and the public sector). Notably, businesses should make renewable energy investments, and the public sector should demonstrate leadership through the adoption of greater energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The NZEECS sets out three targets - the first relates to industrial emissions, the second to use of electric vehicles and the third to the use of renewable energy. Of particular relevance to the Project, the third target is: Ninety per cent of electricity will be generated from renewable sources by 2025 (in an average hydrological year), providing security of supply is maintained.

The NZEECS seeks to recognise the importance of renewable energy and focuses on making investments and decisions that will continue unlocking New Zealand's energy productivity and renewable potential. It is acknowledged that this will be assisted through the increasing uptake of efficient technologies and additional renewable generating capacity. Furthermore, renewable energy is identified as an important pathway for achieving economic growth and climate change goals.
Overall, it is considered that the Project is strongly supported by the NZEECS and in turn, strongly supports the goals and targets set out the NZEECS. The Project will increase renewable energy capacity by 1,218 GWh / year. In addition, the turbine technology will be able to manage the changing climate patterns productively (being able to operate in a large range of wind speeds), ensuring continuing adaptation to the effects of climate change, while participating in the wider decarbonisation of the energy industry.

Consequently, the Project is strongly consistent with the policy direction set out by the NZEECS.

Aotearoa New Zealand's first Emissions Reduction Plan: Towards a more productive, sustainable and inclusive economy
Aotearoa New Zealand's first Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) contains strategies, policies, and actions for achieving New Zealand's first emissions budget, as required by the Climate Change Response Act 2002. In doing so, it also outlines how the New Zealand Government intends to play their part in global efforts to limit warming to 1.5˚C above preindustrial levels. It is the first statutory plan, under the Climate Change Response Act, to require the Government to act to reduce emissions right across the economy and support all New Zealanders to make the most of the transition and seize the opportunity to lower the cost of living and improve living standards.

The ERP contains several chapters, which are based on 5 principles outlined in the strategy for reducing emissions (Playing our Part, Empowering Māori, Equitable Transition, Working with Nature, and A Productive, Sustainable and Inclusive economy).

Key components of the ERP, relevant to the Project, include recognising the importance that Mātauranga Māori plays within the transition to a climate-resilient society, accelerating the development of new renewable electricity generation across the economy to increase the electrification of other sectors, increasing access to low emission vehicles, decarbonising the heavy transport and freight industry, supporting businesses to improve energy efficiency and move away from fossil fuels and reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.

Overall, it is considered that the Project demonstrates strong consistency with the provisions and the strategy outlined in the ERP. The Project will directly increase renewable energy supply, enabling the further electrification of other sectors currently dependent on fossil fuels. By diversifying electricity production through significantly adding to the existing renewables contributions to the region and country, energy resilience is improved.

NZ Windfarms has been, and will continue to, actively engage with Iwi / Hapū Authorities to ensure their values and aspirations are represented through the Project. Tikanga practices, cultural monitoring, cultural impact assessment and involvement in the Kohi Wind Farm Project will continue to be enabled and supported by NZ Windfarms should the Project proceed into consenting.

Urutau, ka taurikura: Kia tū pakari a Aotearoa i ngā huringa āhuarangi / Adapt and thrive: Building a climate-resilient New Zealand – New Zealand's first national adaptation plan
The Urutau, ka taurikura: Kia tū pakari a Aotearoa i ngā huringa āhuarangi / Adapt and thrive: Building a climate-resilient New Zealand – New Zealand's first national adaptation plan (NAP) seeks to support all New Zealanders to adapt, live and thrive in a more damaging climate. It looks at the impacts of climate change now and into the future and sets out adaptation measures. The NAP recognises that climate change will increase the severity and

frequency of natural hazards. The NAP contains Government-led strategies, policies and proposals that will help New Zealanders adapt to the changing climate and its effects.

There are four priorities identified, being enabling better risk-informed decision-making, driving climate-resilient development in the right places, laying the foundations for a range of adaptation options (including managed retreat) and embedding climate resilience across government policy. The Government has identified a series of objectives that drive the actions. These relate to either system-wide issues or the outcome areas above.

Wind farms contribute to the overall resilience of the national infrastructure system. Solar, wind and hydro are each reliant on different natural variations. By diversifying electricity production through significantly adding to the existing renewables contribution to the region and New Zealand via the Project, energy resilience is improved. It is further acknowledged that renewable energy generation from sources including but not limited to wind turbines support offset of carbon emissions as a result of fossil fuel energy generation and enhance the efficiency and reliability of the electricity network within New Zealand, contributing towards overall efforts to mitigate climate change.

Overall, it is considered that the Project is complementary with the strategies and policy direction of the NAP.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The Project will deliver regionally significant infrastructure and is given priority as 'specified infrastructure' in the context of applicable national policy and environmental standards (such as the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020).

The Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010 (RPS) defines Regional Significance as matters which are of widespread public concern or interest throughout the region regarding actual or potential effects on the environment (refer definition, clause (a)) and any significant use or development of the region's stock of natural and physical resources (clause (e)). Given the size, scale, and nature of the Project, it is considered that the Project meets the RPS definition of the Regional Significance.
This is further supported by the provisions and direction outlined in the RPS. Section 14 identifies energy as having regional significance. Specifically, Section 14 of the RPS seeks to provide for renewable energy facilities, including specifically promoting the exploration, development, and transmission of renewable energy. The Project enables the development of a renewable energy facility, which will significantly increase generation capacity from solely renewable sources, adding 1,218 GW per year to the national grid.

At the District level, the South Taranaki District Council identifies large-scale renewable electricity generation activities and facilities as those electricity generation activities utilising renewable energy sources with a capacity of 20kW or greater for the purpose of exporting electricity directly into the distribution network or National Grid, including all ancillary components and activities. The Project will consist of 61 turbines generating approximately 366 MW and easily fits within this categorisation. At Section 2.10, the District Plan requires specific recognition of the significant local, regional, and national benefits from the use and development of renewable energy resources, and promotes activities by providing for the investigation, development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of renewable energy activities, including electricity generation. Other objectives further this by ensuring that any adverse effects are avoided remedied or mitigated, while recognising technical, locational, and operational constraints.

Economic benefits of the Project have been assessed as significant, primarily at the regional level, with the Project expected to contribute up to 1,360 jobs in the Taranaki Region (assessed over three years and including existing employment sustenance and new role creation) and generate more than $188 million in GDP for the regional economy during construction. Further economic analysis is outlined in the response to the following question, and in the Economic Impact Assessment provided by MartinJenkins at Appendix E.

Will the project:

increase the supply of housing, address housing needs

Please explain your answer here:

The Project does not relate directly to housing or the urban environment. Any contribution to housing in the context of the Project is through induced impacts (i.e., employees of NZ Windfarms and supplier firms are paid a wage and the firms generate profits, some of which is then spent on consumption in the Region).

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Project will deliver significant economic benefits. These benefits are the employment and regional GDP contributions to the economy directly as a result of the Project's expenditure during both the construction and operational phases. MartinJenkins has been engaged by NZ Windfarms to provide a preliminary Economic Impact Assessment of the Project, with the assessment attached at Appendix E of this application. A summary is provided below.
- The Project is projected to provide up to 366 MW of installed capacity and generate approximately s 9(2)(b)(ii) , helping New Zealand meet its greenhouse gas emission targets and providing significant economic benefits through both increased employment opportunities and increasing GDP.
- Regional Benefits:
- During construction, the Project is estimated to support up to 1,360 jobs in the Taranaki region and generate more than s 9(2)(b)(ii) for the regional economy.

- Once operating, the wind farm will sustain 95 jobs and generate s 9(2)(b)(ii) each year for the Taranaki region.
- National Benefits:
- For New Zealand as a whole, including the Taranaki, construction is estimated to support up to 1,635 jobs (assessed over three years and including existing employment sustenance and new role creation) and generate s 9(2)(b)(ii) .
- Once operating, the wind farm will sustain 109 jobs nationally and contributes 9(2)(b)(ii) each year to New Zealand's economy.

Further to the above:
- The Project will significantly increase renewably generated energy output from the Taranaki Region, further strengthening the Region's position in the renewable energy industry.
- The Project strongly supports Government policies around climate change and transitioning to a low emissions economy.

Overall, the Project is expected to make a significant economic contribution to New Zealand and meets the Purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Bill in that regard, bringing forward investment which will in turn support the regional economy and provide employment opportunities.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

No. The Project will not prevent the existing land uses (primarily intensive dairy farming and dry-stock grazing) from continuing following construction and is therefore neutral.

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

No

Please explain your answer here:

No. The Project will involve future sourcing of sand, gravel, and cement products within the Region at the time of construction for turbine foundations and component haul routes, economically supporting primary industries involved in quarrying and producing these materials.

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes, the Project will support climate change mitigation.

The key benefits of the Project related to climate change mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gases include:
- The Project will enable the further electrification of sectors and activities that are currently dependant on fossil fuel combustion.
- Given the location of the Project in the Region and the sustained onshore wind resource (which has been built on, for example at Waipipi), the establishment of additional wind generation capacity at a Class 2/3 site will prove significantly valuable for New Zealand in order to meet its broader decarbonisation commitments. The location of the Project in the region is equivalent to an estimated capacity factor of 40% which is equal to the long-run average at the national level of 40%.

It is worth noting that the benefits associated with the development of the Project for climate change offset or mitigation will significantly outweigh the temporary effects of development.

The increase in energy supply from the Project is expected to be enough to power approximately 164,000 houses or 535,000 electric vehicles. If constructed today, it would be the largest windfarm in New Zealand, in terms of MW.

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Project will contribute to the mitigation and/or offset of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to the acceleration, frequency and severity of natural hazards caused by climate change.

Wind farms contribute to the overall resilience of the national infrastructure system. Solar, wind and hydro are each reliant on different natural variations. By diversifying electricity production through significantly adding to the existing renewables contribution to the region and New Zealand, energy resilience is improved; wind generation can fill gaps in generation when hydro lakes are low, or solar conditions are inadequate.

Potential associated effects of climate change and the reducing supply of fossil fuels may see more stringent policies and pricing for such fuels, with potential shortages or supplies being uneconomic to utilise. Additional wind generated electricity through projects such as this will help provide additional supply to the National Grid. It is estimated that no less than 6.5% of renewable electricity generated within New Zealand is derived from windfarms, however the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment suggest that wind will account for between 20% and 55% of all new renewable electricity generation to enable fossil fuel transition.

The additional generation capacity of the Project will significantly contribute towards the 17-35% additional renewable energy required to meet New Zealand's energy demands by 2035.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Overall, the preliminary environmental effects of the Project have been found to be at levels that are acceptable and appropriate in the context of the receiving environment. No environmental effects (as determined by the technical assessments) of the Project will be Significant, or unable to be mitigated, offset or compensated.

It is acknowledged that the Preliminary Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment (Appendix F) identifies that potential amenity effects are moderate in relation to amenity values derived from changes to the perceived rural character of the environment irrespective of the visibility of the turbines. While the preliminary assessment notes limited properties internal to the wind farm that have the potential to be subject to high amenity effects in term of visual over-dominance, shadow flicker, and changes to the pleasantness and aesthetic coherence of the landscape, further detailed onsite assessment is required and will likely reduce these impacts. These properties have since been included in the Project Site and form part of the Project.

The Project will have a very low level of effect in relation to the biophysical values of the landscape and a low to moderate level of effect on its perceived character, values, and associative / amenity values.

Mitigation measures that may be employed to reduce the overall landscape ratings include by pushing the turbine platforms off the primary ridgeline, colouring, mitigation planting or by bringing landowners into the Project by way of agreements. NZ Windfarms will work through these matters with all landowners as part of the next stage of the process, and in conjunction with turbine suppliers.

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010
The RPS provides an overview of the Region's resource management issues, as well as high-level policy reflected in regional and district plans.

Of specific relevance to the Project Sections 4 and 14 of the RPS set out regionally significant issues for energy and state the respective objective and policies.

UDR Objective 1 and Policy 1 recognise the role of resource use and development in the Taranaki region and its contribution to enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing. ENE Objective 1 and ENE Policy 2 require that District Plans promote the exploration, development, production, transmission, and distribution of energy to meet the energy supply needs of the Region in a manner that avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the environment. ENE Objective 2 and ENE Policy 3 further this, by specifying the use and development of renewable energy sources.

The key element of the Project is that it seeks to significantly increase generation capacity from solely renewable sources, providing additional electricity to consumers through the grid connection and ultimately meeting the demands of the Region and New Zealand. Section 5 of this listing application has outlined the anticipated adverse effects that the Project may generate at construction or operational phases, and concludes that these can be appropriately avoided, remedied, mitigated, offset or compensated. In addition, the Project will deliver an extensive range of benefits and positive effects through employment and contributions to GDP as well as provision of renewable energy generation in the face of climate change.

Section 7 provides for Air and Climate Change. CCH Objective 1 directs activities to avoid, remedy and mitigate the adverse effects on the environment arising from climate change. CCH Policy 1 furthers this, by requiring activities to recognise and provide for adaptation within agriculture and other primary industries to reduce adverse effects of climate change.

The Project directly relates to the management of climate change effects, as it will contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity industry and assist with New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy. Wind farms contribute to the overall resilience of the national infrastructure system, through improvements to resilience and prevention of future atmospheric hazard events.
Solar, wind and hydro are each reliant on different natural variations. By diversifying electricity production through significantly adding to the existing renewables contribution to the Region and country, energy resilience is improved; wind generation can fill gaps in generation when hydro lakes are low, or solar conditions are inadequate.

Conversely, whilst the Project Site is predominately located within rural land, and turbines will likely be placed on agricultural land, there is very little opportunity cost of lost agricultural efficiency as the turbines take up such a small percentage of the farmland and the rentals from the windfarm improve the economics for the farms. Pastoral areas located at the base of turbines and in the wider vicinity can continue to efficiently operate without the turbine scale or noise causing disturbance or distress for livestock.

Section 16 of the RPS identifies the resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the Region. KIA Objective 1 directs Councils to have particular regard to kaitiakitanga in relation to managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in the Taranaki region, in a way that accommodates the views of individual Iwi and hapū. KIA Objective 1 states that Iwi and hapū will be consulted with on an individual basis to

determine how kaitiakitanga can be recognised and integrated in the management of use and development of resources. As detailed at Section 3 of this application, NZ Windfarms have actively engaged with Iwi Authorities and Treaty Settlement entities (and sought advice from Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi on appropriate engagement with their hapū) to understand their values and aspirations, including how they can be represented in the Project. It is recognised that this engagement is only the start and will continue to develop as the Project proceeds into an approvals phase.

Whilst the above demonstrates the consistency of the Project against the key relevant objectives and policies, there are a range of other objectives and policies that are considered relevant within the RPS relating to specific activities (Land and Soil, Freshwater, Indigenous Biodiversity). An initial screening of the relevant objectives and policies in these chapters alongside the preliminary assessments undertaken (in particular those relation to Erosion and Sediment Control and Ecology) finds that the Project is consistent with them.

Overall, it is considered that the Project will achieve a high-level of consistency with the objectives and policies of the RPS.

Regional Plans
Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki
The Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki (the Soil Plan) seeks to address soil loss and soil health issues largely by non-regulatory methods. Of relevance to the Project, Objective 1 seeks to maintain and enhance the soil resource of the Taranaki Region by avoiding, remedying, or mitigating accelerated erosion.

Project earthworks, as currently anticipated, will be of a nature and scale that can be appropriately managed using current best practice erosion and sediment control techniques. Works are not proposed to be undertaken in areas of high susceptibility to natural hazards and suitable measures for the management of benched cuts, fills and stabilisation can be developed during the approvals phase. As such, any accelerated soil erosion can be avoided, remedied, or otherwise mitigated.

Overall, it is considered the Project will be able to demonstrate consistency with the Soil Plan.

Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki
The Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki (the Freshwater Plan) promotes the sustainable management of the freshwater resources of the region. Objectives and policies relate to protecting, maintaining and enhancing (as far as practicable) the natural, ecological and amenity values of rivers, lakes and wetlands, including water levels and flows, water quality and riparian margins. The Project will include the installation of culverts (potentially required for the upgrading of the site access), wetland traversal or partial removal / disturbance and discharges within 100m of unverified natural wetlands that border the Whenuakura River, however the Project will meet the definition of specified infrastructure under the NES FM 2020 and is afforded a Discretionary Activity pathway for a range of soil and vegetation disturbance works, drainage, water take and use within or adjacent to a natural inland wetland with the ability to offset or compensate effects.

Detailed ecological assessment and classification and delineation of wetlands will be undertaken by the Project's ecological consultants prior to lodgement of any Impact Assessment and approvals application.

Overall, it is considered the Project will be consistent with the Freshwater Plan.

South Taranaki District Plan
The STDP provides for the Project as a large-scale renewable electricity generation activity. Large scale facilities are those electricity generation activities utilising renewable energy sources with a capacity of 20kW or greater for the purpose of exporting electricity directly into the distribution network or National Grid, including all ancillary components and activities. Section 2 of the STDP sets out the objectives and policies of the District. Of particular relevance to the Project is Section 2.10 which outlines those relating to energy.

At Section 2.10, the District Plan requires specific recognition of the significant local, regional, and national benefits from the use and development of renewable energy resources, and promotes activities by providing for the investigation, development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of renewable energy activities, including electricity generation. Other objectives further this by ensuring that any adverse effects are avoided remedied or mitigated, while recognising technical, locational, and operational constraints.

Associated policies seek to recognise the potential of the available wind resource in South Taranaki, as well as specific requirements of the development of renewable energy activities, including ensuring adverse effects are avoided, remedied, and mitigated. The Project envelope has been developed to maximise the generation capacity of the Project Site and the wind resource while subject specific management plans can be developed to manage effects requiring mitigation. These matters can be addressed through a later detailed process. Through this, significant local, regional, and national benefits will be realised.

Based on a general screening of other provisions of the STDP, it is considered the Project will be highly consistent with the policy direction of the District Plan.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Please refer to the full combined application packaged attached.

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

In October 2010, Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) applied to the Environment Court for nine enforcement declarations in relation to noise generated by turbines at NZ Windfarms Te Rere Hau Wind Farm. To assist in resolving the issues, NZ Windfarms agreed to undertake further compliance monitoring and worked with PNCC to refine the issues requiring determination by the Court.
Following a number of hearings and appeals, two declarations were subsequently confirmed: that PNCC was entitled to conduct a review of the noise conditions of consent and that the noise of the Windflow 500 turbines had special audible characteristics. NZ Windfarms then agreed a review process with PNCC which enabled active participation of the local community.

NZ Windfarms worked with PNCC and the community throughout that process to develop a set of improved noise conditions and an operating regime which tangibly reduced noise effects for the neighbours of the windfarm. The conditions included new noise and operating limits, additional monitoring, an improved complaints management process, and a community liaison group to provide a forum for NZ Windfarms and its neighbours to discuss any issues or developments proposed for the site.

NZ Windfarms has not received a complaint in the previous 12-months regarding noise from Te Rere Hau under these new conditions. As outlined in this report, NZ Windfarms has recently consented the repowering of Te Rere Hau via the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (to replace the aged Windflow 500 turbines with new, efficient, and quieter turbine technology) and has successfully maintained and grown new constructive and supportive relationships with the local community and Council.

Load your file here:
NZWF - Application for a Sched. 2 Part A Listing_Fast-Track Approvals Bill 2024 - Kohi Wind Farm - Final for Lodgement (Fully Combined - Reduced).pdf was uploaded

Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:
Stephen Gascoigne

Important notes