Section 6: National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards

1.1 Ruarangi

The following sections provide a general assessment of the Ruarangi wind farm development against the identified relevant National Environmental Standards and National Policy Statements.

1.1.1 National Environmental Standards

An assessment of the following National Environmental Standards considered relevant to the Ruarangi wind farm development is identified below:

- National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011;
- National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020; and
- National Environmental Standard for Air Quality 2004

1.1.1.1 National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011

The disturbance of soil is covered by subclause 5(4) of the NES-CS and Regulation 5(7) of NES-CS.

There is no indication on the Northland Regional Council Selected Land-use Register that any of the land packages which form the proposed site for the Ruarangi wind farm have had a current or previous activity occur which is listed on the Hazardous Activities and Industries List. Therefore, the NES-CS is not considered pertinent to the Ruarangi wind farm development at this stage.

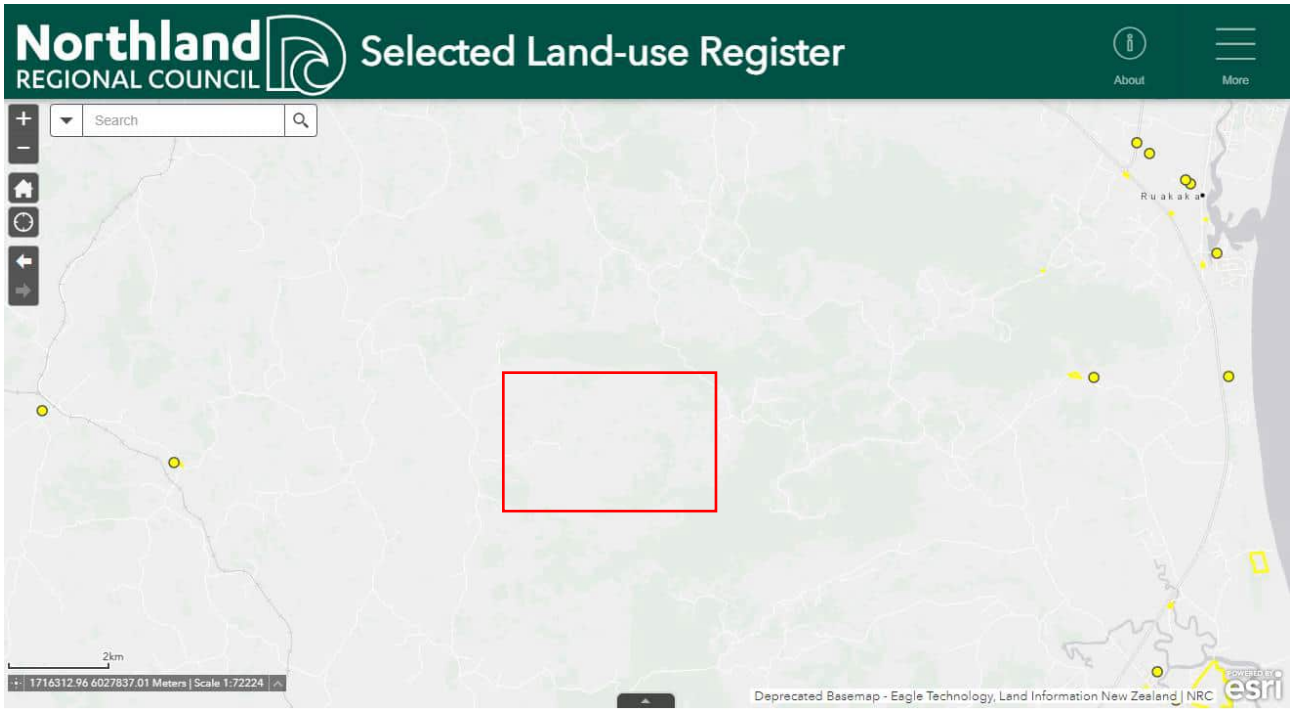

Figure 1: Approximate location of Ruarangi Wind Farm site (red box) and nearby HAIL sites (yellow dots) (Source: Northland Regional Council Selected Land Use Register).

1.1.1.2 National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020

There are no identified natural inland wetlands identified on the site.

Several waterways intersect the site, and the wind turbine are proposed to be placed at a higher topography where the runoff from construction phase stormwater is possible.

Construction phase stormwater is proposed to be managed in a way to ensure any effects on waterways are adequately minimised.

Consistent engagement with iwi/hapu will occur to ensure that the management of cultural values and kaitiakitanga are adhered to ensure Te Mana o Te Wai can occur. It is not anticipated that the operation phase of the wind farm will have any adverse effects on waterways with effective Erosion and Sediment Control measures in place.

1.1.1.3 National Environmental Standard for Air Quality 2004

A Dust Management Plan will be a requirement for construction phase activities to be provided to the Northland Regional Council prior to the commencement of works to ensure the proposal remains compliant with regards to NES-AQ. It is anticipated that the management of dust through an appropriate management plan will protect the air quality from any adverse effects.

1.1.2 National Policy Statements

A general assessment of the Ruarangi wind farm development is provided against the following National Policy Statements considered relevant:

- National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011;
- National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008;
- National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020;
- National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land; and
- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

1.1.2.1 National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

The proposal is entirely consistent with the NPS-REG as it provides large scale for renewable electricity generation. The Project will provide an important contribution to meeting the New Zealand Government's national target for the generation of electricity from renewable resources, achieving the key objective of the NPS REG.

The positive benefits of the establishment of the windfarm in Ruarangi will be particularly beneficial to the Northland region but will also have far reaching benefits for all New Zealand. Having a renewable energy source in Northland will contribute towards the decarbonisation of the area and will provide a more stable supply of renewable energy for the upper North Island. The wind farm will also contribute a notable step towards the nationwide renewable energy and decarbonisation goal of having 100% renewable electricity by 2030. If the proposal is managed through the fast-track approvals regime, the site could be generating renewable electricity by 2027/2028.

1.1.2.2 National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008

The proposal is entirely consistent with the NPS-ET, as the wind farm will provide efficient, reliable connection to the National Grid to assist meeting New Zealand's energy needs. The grid connection for the wind farm will be worked through with Transpower in a manner that appropriately considers environmental and community impacts. The grid connection infrastructure outside the wind farm envelope will be managed in conjunction with Transpower.

1.1.2.3 National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020

Engagement with relevant iwi/hapu will ensure that the management of cultural values and kaitiakitanga is considered to ensure Te Mana o Te Wai can occur as several waterways intersect the site. Construction phase stormwater is proposed to be managed in a way to ensure any effects on waterways are adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated, therefore it is not anticipated that the operation of the wind farm will have any adverse effect on the surrounding waterways. All measures are proposed to be in place to show consistency with the NPS-FW.

1.1.2.4 National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land

While the project site is on rural land, it is not classified within LUC 1, 2 or 3 categories. Rather, it is predominantly classified Class 4 (Severe Limitations for Arable or Cultivation) and Class 6 (Non-Arable: productive hill country). Therefore, as the project is not within an area of Highly Productive Land, it is not considered that the NPS-HPL is relevant.

In addition, the wind farm development would only occupy ~2% of the land, which would not impact the primary use of the land.

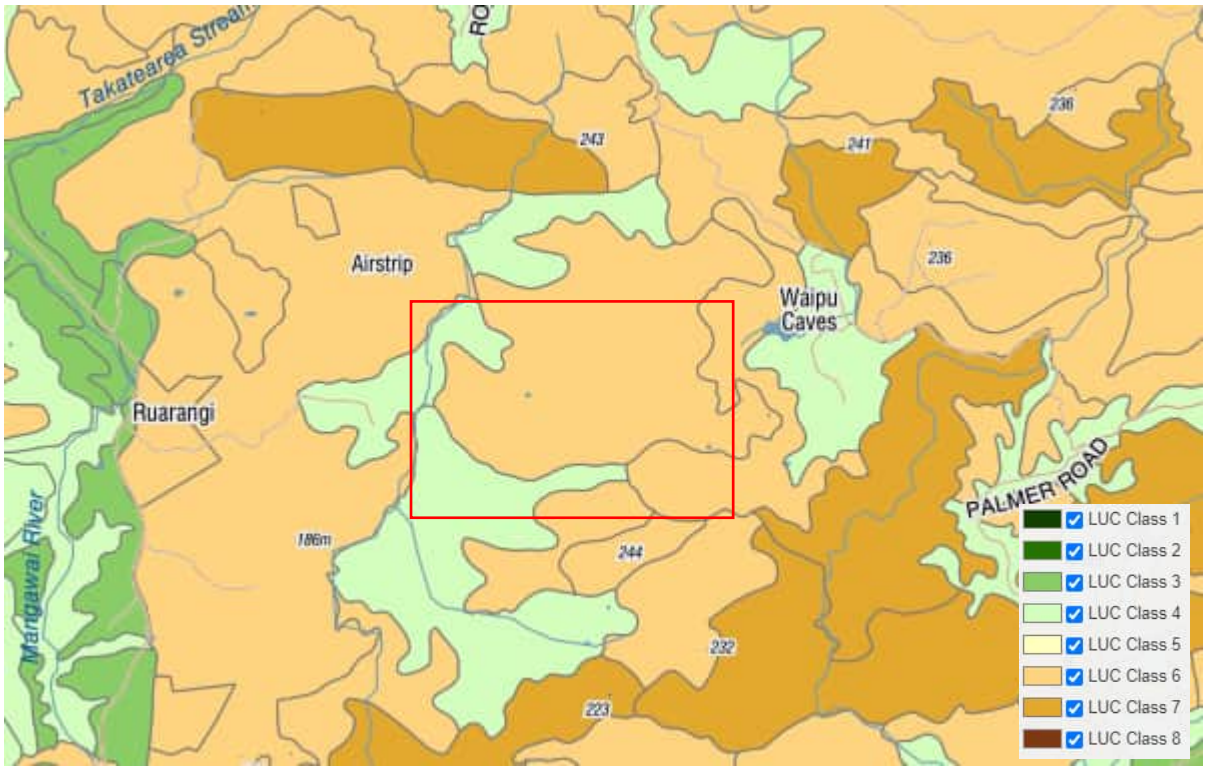

Figure 2: Land Use Capability of Ruarangi Wind Farm (approximate location – red box) and surrounding area (Source: Our Environment)

1.1.2.5 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Given the land use of the wind farm is ~2% any discernible impacts that are discovered on indigenous flora and fauna can be appropriately avoided, remedied, and/or mitigated.

1.2 Ratahiwi

The following sections provide a general assessment of the Ratahiwi wind farm development against the identified relevant National Environmental Standards and National Policy Statements.

1.2.1 National Environmental Standards

An assessment of the following National Environmental Standards considered relevant to the Ratahiwi wind farm development is identified below:

- National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011;
- National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020; and
- National Environmental Standard for Air Quality 2004

1.2.1.1 National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011

The disturbance of soil is covered by subclause 5(4) of the NES-CS and Regulation 5(7) of NES-CS.

There is no indication on the Horizons Sites Associated with Hazardous Substances (SAHS) that any of the land packages which form the proposed site for the Ratahiwi wind farm have had a current or previous activity occur which is listed on the Hazardous Activities and Industries List. Therefore, the NES-CS is not considered relevant to the Ratahiwi wind farm development at this stage.

1.2.1.2 National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020

There are no identified natural inland wetlands identified on the site.

There are waterways within the vicinity of the site. Appropriate setbacks from these surface waterbodies, along with any other waterbodies in the area, will be identified for the turbines pre-construction.

Construction phase stormwater is proposed to be managed in a way to ensure any effects on waterways are adequately minimised. Engagement with relevant iwi/hapu will occur to ensure that the management of cultural values and kaitiakitanga is not overlooked and to ensure Te Mana o Te Wai can occur. It is not anticipated that the operation phase of the wind farm will have any adverse effects on waterways with effective Erosion and Sediment Control measures in place.

1.2.1.3 National Environmental Standard for Air Quality 2004

A Dust Management Plan is likely to be a requirement for construction phase activities to be provided to the Horizons Regional Council prior to the commencement of works to ensure the proposal remains compliant with regards to NES-AQ. It is anticipated that the management of dust through an appropriate management plan will protect the air quality from any adverse effects.

1.2.2 National Policy Statements

A general assessment of the Ratahiwi wind farm development is provided against the following National Policy Statements considered relevant:

- National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011;
- National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008;

- National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020;
- National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land; and
- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

1.2.2.1 National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

The proposal is entirely consistent with the NPS-REG as it provides large scale for renewable electricity generation, which will be fed into the National Grid and provide a valuable source of energy for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region. The Project will provide an important contribution to meeting the New Zealand Government's national target for the generation of electricity from renewable resources, achieving the key objective of the NPS REG.

The positive benefits of the establishment of the windfarm in Ratahiwi will be particularly beneficial to the Manawatu-Whanganui region but will also have far reaching benefits for all New Zealand. Having a renewable energy source in the area will contribute towards the decarbonisation of the area and will provide a more stable supply of renewable energy for the upper North Island. The wind farm will also contribute a notable step towards the nationwide renewable energy and decarbonisation goal of having 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

1.2.2.2 National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008

The proposal is entirely consistent with the NPS-ET, as the wind farm will provide efficient, reliable connection to the National Grid to assist meeting New Zealand's energy needs. The grid connection for the wind farm will be worked through with Transpower in a manner that appropriately considers environmental and community impacts. The preferred grid connection option for Ratahiwi will involve transmission infrastructure located entirely within the wind farm envelope, which will limit any community and environmental impacts of grid connection.

1.2.2.3 National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020

Engagement with relevant iwi/hapu will occur to ensure that the management of cultural values and kaitiakitanga is considered to ensure Te Mana o Te Wai can occur. Construction phase stormwater is proposed to be managed in a way to ensure any effects on waterways are adequately avoided, remedied, or mitigated, therefore it is not anticipated that the operation of the wind farm will have any adverse effect on the surrounding waterways. All measures are proposed to be in place to show consistency with the NPS-FW.

1.2.2.4 National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land

Highly Productive Land is land that is in a general rural zone or rural productive zone, is predominantly LUC1, 2 or 3 land, and forms a large and geographically cohesive area. As seen in Figure 4 below, part of the wind farm development is identified as LUC 3 land. This means the land is arable and suitable for using the land for growing crops.

Clause 3.9(2)(j) of the NPS-HPL contains exceptions to Clause 3.9(1) recognizing that not all land use and development of highly productive land is inappropriate.

The wind farm development would likely qualify as specified infrastructure when generating electricity, it would be providing a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002). The businesses described in Part B of Schedule 1 of this Act include 'an entity that generates electricity for distribution through a network or distributes electricity through a network'.

Although the land is LUC 3 land, the wind farm development would only occupy ~2% of the total site and is highly unlikely to affect the primary use of the land. Furthermore, only a small number of turbines are indicated to potentially fall within the LUC 3 land.

Considering the small scale of overlap with LUC 3 land, and the consideration of the wind farm development as specified infrastructure, we consider the Ratahiwi wind farm development to be consistent with the NPS-HPL.

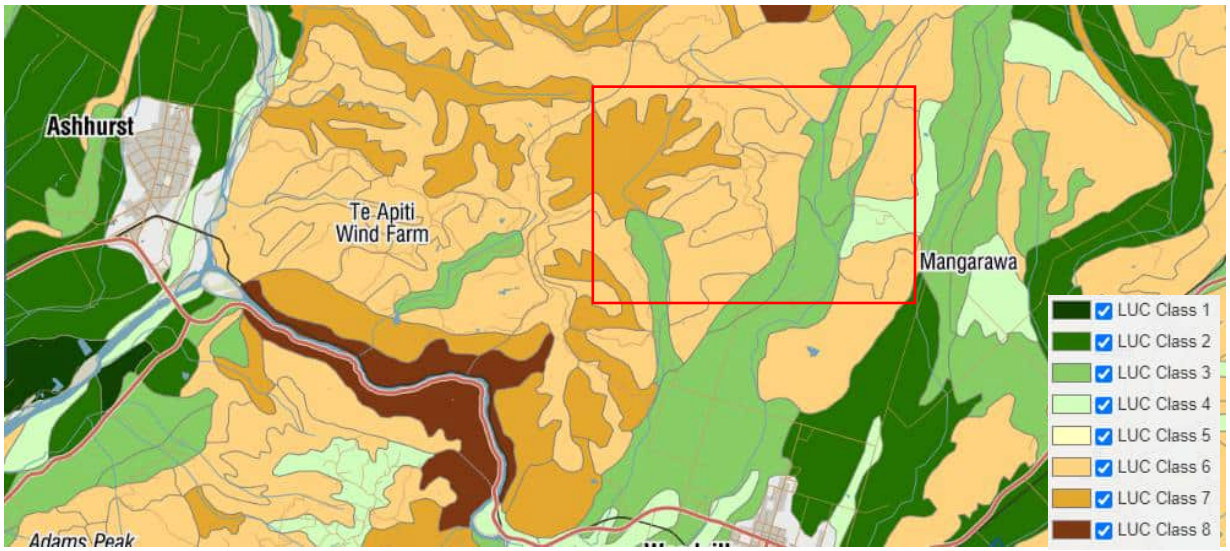

Figure 4: Land Use Capability of Ratahiwi Wind Farm (approximate location – red box) and surrounding area (Source: Our Environment)

1.2.2.5 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Given the land use of the wind farm is ~2% any discernible impacts that are discovered on indigenous flora and fauna can be appropriately avoided, remedied, and/or mitigated.

1.3 Kurow

The following sections provide a general assessment of the Kurow wind farm development against the identified relevant National Environmental Standards and National Policy Statements.

1.3.1 National Environmental Standards

An assessment of the following National Environmental Standards considered relevant to the Kurow wind farm development is identified below:

- National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011;
- National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020; and
- National Environmental Standard for Air Quality 2004

1.3.1.1 National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011

There is no indication on the Environment Canterbury Listed Land-use Register that any of the land packages which form the proposed site for the Kurow wind farm have had a current or previous activity occur which is listed on the Hazardous Activities and Industries List. Therefore, the NES-CS is not relevant to the proposal.

1.3.1.2 National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020

There are no identified natural inland wetlands identified on the site.

The Waitaki River, Awakino River, and Little Awakino River are all located within proximity of the site. Appropriate setbacks from these surface waterbodies, along with any other waterbodies in the area, will be identified for all turbines pre-construction. Construction phase stormwater is proposed to be managed in a way to ensure any effects on waterways are adequately minimised.

Engagement with relevant iwi/hapu will occur to ensure that the management of cultural values and kaitiakitanga to ensure Te Mana o Te Wai can occur. It is not anticipated that the operation phase of the wind farm will have any adverse effects on waterways with effective Erosion and Sediment Control measures in place.

1.3.1.3 National Environmental Standard for Air Quality 2004

A Dust Management Plan is likely to be a requirement for construction phase activities to be provided to the Environment Canterbury prior to the commencement of works to ensure the proposal remains compliant with regards to NES-AQ. It is anticipated that the management of dust through an appropriate management plan will protect the air quality from any adverse effects.

1.3.2 National Policy Statements

A general assessment of the Kurow wind farm development is provided against the following National Policy Statements considered relevant:

- National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011;
- National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008;
- National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020;
- National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land; and
- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

1.3.2.1 National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

The proposal is entirely consistent with the NPS-REG as it provides large scale for renewable electricity generation, which will be fed into the National Grid and provide a valuable source of energy for the Canterbury Region. The Project will provide an important contribution to meeting the New Zealand Government's national target for the generation of electricity from renewable resources, achieving the key objective of the NPS REG.

The positive benefits of the establishment of the windfarm in Kurow will be particularly beneficial to the Canterbury and Otago regions but will also have far reaching benefits for all New Zealand. Having an alternative renewable energy source in the region will contribute towards the decarbonisation of the area and will provide a more stable supply of renewable energy. The wind farm will also contribute a notable step towards the nationwide renewable energy and decarbonisation goal of having 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

1.3.2.2 National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008

The proposal is entirely consistent with the NPS-ET, as the wind farm will provide efficient, reliable connection to the National Grid to assist meeting New Zealand's energy needs. The grid connection for the wind farm will be worked through with Transpower in a manner that appropriately considers environmental and community impacts. One of the proposed grid connection options for Kurow will involve transmission infrastructure located entirely within the wind farm envelope, which will limit any community and environmental impacts of grid connection.

1.3.2.3 National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020

Engagement with relevant iwi/hapu will occur to ensure that the management of cultural values and kaitiakitanga to ensure Te Mana o Te Wai can occur with Awakino River intersecting the site. Construction phase stormwater is proposed to be managed in a way to ensure any effects on waterways are adequately avoided, remedied, or mitigated, therefore it is not anticipated that the operation of the wind farm will have any adverse effect on the surrounding waterways. All measures are proposed to be in place to show consistency with the NPS-FW.

1.3.2.4 National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land

While the project site is on rural land, it is not classified within LUC 1, 2 or 3 categories. Rather, it is predominantly classified Class 4 (Severe Limitations for Arable or Cultivation), Class 6 (Non-Arable: productive hill country) and Class 7 (Non-Arable: High-Risk Land). Therefore, as the project is not within an area of Highly Productive Land, it is considered that the NPS-HPL is not relevant for the development.

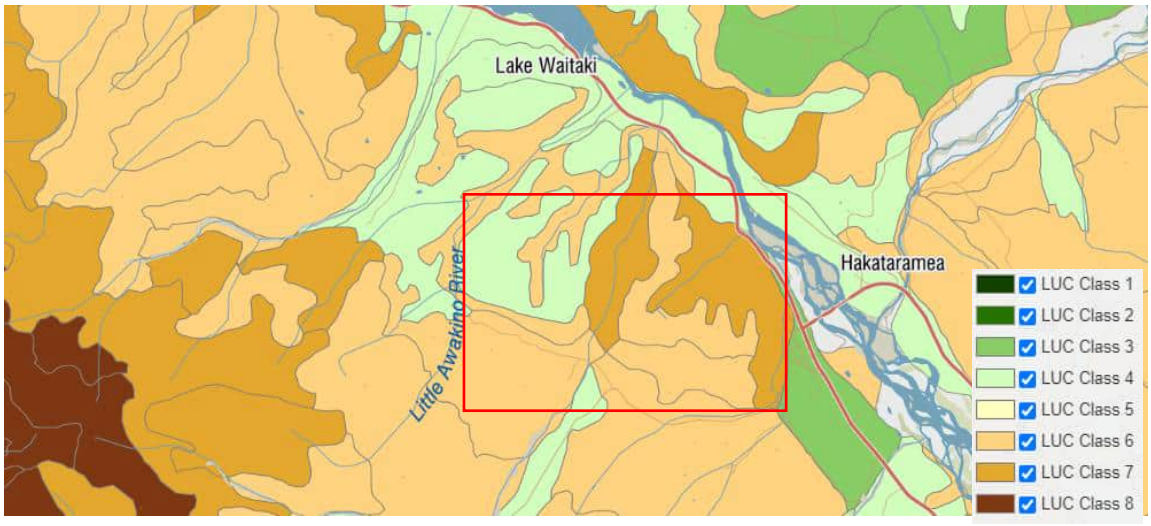

Figure 6: Land Use Capability of Kurow Wind Farm (approximate location – red box) and surrounding area (Source: Our Environment)

1.3.2.5 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Construction-phase discharges will be managed appropriately (particularly considering the undulating terrain of the site), and erosion and sediment control will form a key aspect of construction phase activities. Avoiding construction activities in the stewardship area and appropriate Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to avoid, remedy and mitigate any sediment discharges from construction activities will provide appropriate mitigation for the development.

Given the land use of the wind farm is ~2% any discernible impacts that are discovered on indigenous flora and fauna can be appropriately avoided, remedied, and/or mitigated.