

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FB3-5

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications

Submitted on 2024-05-03 12:24:39

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2B

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:

Marton Solar Farm Ltd

2 Contact person

Contact person name:

Steve Rademaker

3 What is your job title

Job title:

Director

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:

c/- The Advisory Group

Level 9

55 Shortland Street

Auckland Central

Auckland 1010

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

Yes

Organisation:

Stradegey Planning Ltd

Contact person:

Claire Price

Phone number:

s 9(2)(a)

Email address:

s 9(2)(a)

Job title:

Associate Planner

Please enter your service address:

PO Box 239,

Napier 4140

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

The site comprises two titles of land at 471 Makirikiri Road, Marton / 336 and 368 Pukepapa Road, Marton.

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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

• Dennis Paul Nitschke and Overdene Trust Company Limited

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:

The applicant has secured land tenure via an option for lease for 'a long term period in excess of 25 years'.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Marton Solar Farm

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The Marton Solar Farm Ltd project involves the establishment, operation and maintenance of a ~31ha solar farm, supplying renewable electricity directly to the National Grid, over land at 471 Makirikiri Road, 336 and 368 Pukepapa Road, Marton. It includes ancillary activities such as earthworks and grid connection to the Marton substation. The solar farm will have a generation output of up to 25MW, which is equivalent to supplying ~7,500 households, and is therefore a priority project when considering the Government's 2050 vision for a highly renewable, sustainable and efficient energy system.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The purpose of the Marton Solar Farm is to generate renewable energy from the sun using solar technology and to efficiently supply this to the national grid. The objective is to have the solar farm completed and operational by Q1 2026.

The proposed solar farm requires approvals for the structures, facilities and ancillary activities described below:

- A 450m² site compound (a level metallised area).
- Solar panels and single axis tracking system.
- Power Conversion Units (PCUs).
- Electrical equipment including cabling above and below ground through the site and grid connection infrastructure to the Marton substation.
- The use of existing and new vehicle accesses on Pukepapa Road, for construction and long term operational access.
- New internal roads.
- Earthworks across the site to enable the installation and construction of the solar farm as described above.

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

Please write your answer here:

There is no staging of the development. The entire Marton Solar Farm project would be constructed over ~12 months, and from there it would be operational.

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

Please write your answer here:

Resource Management Act 1991

Resource consents are required under the Operative District Plan for the Rangitikei District and the One Plan applicable to the Manawatu-Wanganui region.

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

Please write your answer here:

Rangitikei District Council
Horizons Regional Council

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

Please write your answer here:

None.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

N/A - the landowner's approval has been obtained.

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

Please write your answer here:

- o detailed design - Q3 2024
- o procurement - Q4 2024
- o funding – Q1 2025
- o site works commencement and testing - Q2 2025
- o completion – Q1 2026

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

orelevant local authorities

- o Initial consultation with Rangitikei District Council

orelevant iwi authorities

- o Initial engagement email sent (21st August 2023) to Chris Shenton of Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa

orelevant Treaty settlement entities

- o Initial engagement email sent (21st August 2023) to Chris Shenton who is the GM Environment for Te Runanga o Ngati Apa Society Incorporated (Te Runanga o Ngati Apa)

protected customary rights groups

- o N/A

customary marine title groups

- o N/A

applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal (Takutai Moana) Act 2011

- o N/A

ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou

- o N/A

any person with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 1981.

- o N/A

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.

o N/A

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:

Initial engagement email sent (21st August 2023) to Chris Shenton of Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.

Initial consultation with Rangitikei District Council to clarify district plan rules and required technical assessments.

Consultation to date has enabled the scope of technical assessments to be confirmed.

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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:

N/A

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Apa (Te Rūnanga)

The Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all Ngāti Apa's North Island historical claims resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown before 21 September 1992 and is made up of a package that includes:

- o an agreed historical account and Crown acknowledgements which form the basis for a Crown Apology to Ngāti Apa;
- o Cultural redress; and
- o Financial and commercial redress.

The Area of Interest spans the Rangitikei District and includes the rural land surrounding Marton and therefore the subject site.

The site is not part of any of the cultural redress sites listed in the Deed.

The site is not within or adjacent to a Statutory Acknowledgement Area listed in the Deed.

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?

No

If yes, what are they?:

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?

Yes

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:

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Section 5: Adverse effects

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

Please describe:

- Potential effects on rural amenity (visual, noise, rural character)
- Potential effects on increased traffic on local road network during construction and operation of the solar farm
- Potential effects from glint and glare on local road network and adjacent properties
- Potential effects from construction activities (noise, traffic)
- Potential effects from earthworks and structures located within a fault hazard zone.
- Potential effects from earthworks including dust, erosion and sediment generation.

All effects can be avoided and/or managed - through extent, design and management of the construction and operation of the solar farm - so these effects on the environment are low.

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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:

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS REG)

The objective of NPS REG is to recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development and operation of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities so that the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation.

Policy A of the document directs decision makers to recognise and provide for the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities, including the national, regional and local benefits. These benefits include:

- maintaining or increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions;
- security of electricity supply and diversifying the type and location of electricity generation.
- using renewable rather than finite natural resources;
- the reversibility of the adverse effects on the environment.
- avoiding reliance on imported fuels.

All of the benefits listed in Policy A would be realised by the proposed solar farm.

Significant development of renewable electricity generation activities is required if New Zealand is to meet its target for the generation of electricity from renewable resources (Policy B). This project will assist in meeting that target.

Decision makers must have particular regard to the practical constraints associated with the development of new renewable generation activities (Policy C1).

Sites for solar farms must fit a number of functional and operational factors, as well as achieving a successful lease over the site, certainty of environmental approvals and access to the National Grid. The site has been chosen because it avoids significant natural areas, significant landscape areas, high risk natural hazards, while having access to good local road networks and generally low levels of sensitive receptors, all to lessen the potential effects on the environment. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the proposed activity.

National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS HPL)

The objective of the NPS HPL is to protect highly productive land for use in land-based primary production, now and in the future. The site is considered to be highly productive land because it is zoned Rural and is LUC 2 land.

Notwithstanding that, clause 3.7 of the NPS HPL makes provision for specified infrastructure to use this resource, if there is sufficient rationale and effects on HPL are minimised or mitigated.

The proposed solar farm meets the definition of specified infrastructure in the NPS HPL. There is a functional and operational need for it to locate on this land. Solar farm sites require close proximity to the National Grid infrastructure, generally flat ground, should avoid highly sensitive areas and a positive agreement with the landowner. All of these factors are achieved at this site.

The potential capacity of this highly productive land is not adversely affected by the solar farm, as it can be decommissioned and returned to its current state, so there will be no permanent loss of primary production capacity.

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

The site is not within an identified significant natural area, and the current land use is cropping so there are unlikely to be any significant terrestrial ecological values. However, terrestrial ecological values will be confirmed through an ecological values assessment of the site determining the relevance of the NPS IB for the project.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS FM)

The NPS-FM gives direction on freshwater quantity and quality matters, and activities within, and in close proximity of inland natural wetlands.

The site is likely to have two watercourses, defined as ephemeral. There are unlikely to be any natural inland wetlands on the site. These statements will be confirmed through an ecological assessment of the site. The design of the solar farm, and associated earthworks, would respond to constraints identified by the final ecological assessment. Earthworks will be managed on site to minimise erosion and treat sediment-laden water to avoid adverse effects on freshwater quality downstream of the site.

National Environmental Standard Freshwater Management 2020 (NES-FM)

Part 3 of these regulations set out 'standards for other activities that relate to freshwater and Subparts 1, 2 and 3 would be relevant to this project if the site contains a 'river' or natural inland wetland.

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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 Fast Track Approvals process will enable the project to be considered in a more timely and cost efficient way, as both the regional and land use consent applications are considered together by the same panel. The shorter timeframe offered through the Fast Track Approvals Bill will result in the delivery of a renewable energy infrastructure project sooner than can be achieved under the Resource Management Act regime, which potentially requires limited or full public notification. An appeal to the Environment Court could delay implementation of this project by at least 12 months.

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

Please write your answer here:

The design of the solar farm offers a renewable energy project located optimally to connect to the Marton substation and manages adverse effects so that they are low on the environment. Gaining approvals enables the operator to immediately commence the implementation of those consents, with construction occurring ideally by the second quarter of 2025.

The project is a low risk project with high reward and will contribute to New Zealand's supply of renewable energy and would efficiently progress through the Fast Track Approvals process.

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

Central government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

The Marton Solar Farm is a priority project when considering the Government's 2050 vision for a highly renewable, sustainable and efficient energy system that is accessible and affordable, secure and reliable, and supports New Zealanders' wellbeing (clause 17(3)(a) and (b) of the Fast track Approvals Bill).

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

National significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

- The Marton Solar Farm project is an infrastructure project that generates and contributes renewable electricity to the National Grid and will provide significant national and regional benefits, including the following:
- New Zealand currently relies heavily on hydroelectric generation. During low rainfall periods other energy sources are required, predominately coming from fossil fuels, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.
- New Zealand's energy supply must diversify to maintain a secure and resilient energy supply. Solar energy offers a reliable and scalable source of renewable electricity that can complement existing renewable energy sources, providing a diversified energy portfolio.
- The proposed solar farm will generate up to 25MW of electricity, which is equivalent to supplying ~7,500 households, supplied directly to the national

grid.

- Transpower's Marton substation adjoins the Marton Solar Farm site so direct connection can be made from the solar farm to the National Grid and minimise potential transmission losses. The direct connection to the National Grid also means that no works or electrical corridors are required beyond the site, removing the need for a new transmission line connection between the site and grid infrastructure.
- Emerging national level policy on renewable energy emphasises the vital need for more renewable generation to electrify and decarbonise the New Zealand economy – which would provide significant national and regional benefits. In a consultation document released by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), it is stated:

Renewable electricity generation needs to increase by an estimated 50 per cent to 70 per cent by 2035, and increase by 170 per cent by 2050. This requires maintaining the existing renewable generation and an average annual increase in generation capacity of around 400 to 500 megawatts (MW) per year until 2050.

- To that end, renewable energy from the Marton Solar Farm would contribute 5-6.2% to the average annual increase which is significant when considered at this national scale.

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

It will contribute to the reliable supply of electricity, which delivers economic benefits locally, regionally and nationally (clause 17(3)(d)). It will contribute to employment, training and upskilling, and the flow on socio-economic effects to the local community during the construction period of the solar farm.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Marton Solar Farm will support the reduction of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions by harnessing the energy from the sun using solar technology (clause 17(3)(f), (g) and (i)). Further, the solar farm will support sheep grazing (agrivoltaics). At the end of the life of the solar farm the infrastructure can be removed, the land returned to pasture, and the potential capacity for primary production activities is available for use.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Marton Solar Farm will support the reduction of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions by harnessing the energy from the sun using solar technology (clause 17(3)(f), (g) and (i)). Further, the solar farm will support sheep grazing (agrivoltaics). At the end of the life of the solar farm the infrastructure can be removed, the land returned to pasture, and the potential capacity for primary production activities is available for use.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Marton Solar Farm will support the reduction of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions by harnessing the energy from the sun using solar technology (clause 17(3)(f), (g) and (i)). Further, the solar farm will support sheep grazing (agrivoltaics). At the end of the life of the solar farm the infrastructure can be removed, the land returned to pasture, and the potential capacity for primary production activities is available for use.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

- The solar farm is a renewable electricity generation activity which contributes to New Zealand's secure supply of renewable electricity.
- The site is optimally located, meeting functional and operational requirements, and avoids areas within outstanding natural features and landscapes.
- The loss of productive capacity of the highly productive land will be avoided, as the land can be remediated to its present state after the decommissioning of the solar farm. Further, the solar farm is designed to not fragment land and enables the co-existence of sheep grazing.
- Actual and potential adverse effects on the rural character and amenity, cultural, and ecological values are avoided, mitigated or remedied.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

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?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

- The project will not be affected by climate change.
- A known fault traverses the site from north-east – south-west. The solar farm is an unmanned facility during operation, and while the infrastructure is important to the generation of electricity, it is not lifeline infrastructure and not habitable.

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:

Load your file here:

Track Record.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:

Claire Price

Important notes