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.

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

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 s 9(2)(b)(ii) 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.

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

1.1.2.5 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

The site is in proximity to dense indigenous and exotic vegetation. No turbines will be placed within dense vegetation and existing access tracks and ridgelines for access will be utilised as much as possible. The results of the avifauna assessment will determine what demonstrated effects there are on avifauna resulting from the wind farm's development will provide recommendations utilizing the avoid, remedy, mitigate hierarchy. Aquila will engage with iwi and hapu on the outcomes of the avifauna assessment, to ensure that the indigenous biodiversity is protected, maintained, and restored to provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and cultures to demonstrate consistency with the NPS-IB.

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.

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope