

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FX9-1

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-04-29 14:45:06

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2B

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Trilect Solar Farms

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Brandon Smith

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Electrical Engineer

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:
PO Box 230279, Botany, Auckland 2163

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

Yes

Organisation:
Trilect Solar Farms

Contact person:
Brandon Smith

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

Email address:
s 9(2)(a)

Job title:
Electrical Engineer

Please enter your service address:

13 Laureston Ave, Papatoetoe, Auckland 2025

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

32 No 8 Road Extension, Springdale, New Zealand

File upload:

Tahuna Land Location.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:

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

SML Trustees (2011) Limited and Francis Sydney Hopper

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:

Trilect Solar Farms Limited has a developed design and proposed the construction of a 23MWp Solar Farm on the land situated at 32 No 8 Road Extension, Springdale. The solar farm will be connected to the local Powerco 33kV network which also runs through the property.

Trilect Solar Farms Limited has entered into a Deed of Option to Lease with the landowner. This is a 2 year agreement with option to extend by another 2 years or transfer to a 30 Year lease with optional 5 year lease extension.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Tahuna Solar Farm

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The project is a 23MWp PV Solar farm on 43ha of farm land near Tahuna in the Waikato region. A single-axis tracker system will be used to maximise the energy fed to the grid via Powerco's lines network. The project is currently pending resource consent and could start construction within 6 months.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The 23MWp solar farm's primary objective is to provide energy to the grid to increase renewable electricity supply, while partnering with farmer's to promote efficient dual-use of land through an Agrivoltaic scheme.

The project will involve the planting of trees for shelterbelts and minor civil works to install fencing, steel piles for the solar panel foundations and underground cabling. Installation of solar panels and associated equipment will follow.

Once complete the system will inject 33GWh of energy into the grid, offset over 4,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per year, and provide shelter for the grazing sheep below.

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

Please write your answer here:

Site Establishment: Once approved, site works will begin with fencing and planting of trees and native shrubs. The upgrade and construction of existing and new metaled roads will closely follow, along with site office and ablutions. This work expected to be complete in 5 weeks.

Civil works: Over the course of 3 months, steel foundations will be installed by an automatic GPS-driven Pile driving machine. Trenching and installation of underground cable will be completed simultaneously.

Installation: Assembly and installation of the solar panels and electrical equipment will be completed in blocks and will follow the steel foundations as each block is completed. All installation works will overlap with civil works and will finish 2 months following completion of civil works.

Commissioning: Testing and Grid syncing will occur over the course of 1 month with various entities such as Powerco and Transpower being involved.

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

Please write your answer here:

Resource Management Act 1991

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

Please write your answer here:

Matamata-Piako District Council
Waikato Regional Council
Local Iwi's

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

Please write your answer here:

No applications or notices have been submitted for this project under the Resource Management Act 1991.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Approval is only required for the applicant.

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

Please write your answer here:

Detailed Design Completion: August 2024
Project Funding Complete: August 2024
Procurement Begins: September 2024
Site Works - Planting, Fencing begins December 2025
Site Works - Main construction works beginning January 2025, finishing July 2025
Project Completion - August 2025

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

- Waka Kotahi / NZ Transport Agency

They will need to review our glint and glare study to determine any impact on passing vehicles giving the location on state highway 27. Any impact can be mitigated by tree planting.

- Powerco

We've been working with teh EDB Powerco on the grid connection works and have been notified of our success in working through the grid connection feasibility with Electronet as our consultant.

- Nearby Neighbours

We intend to screen the site with trees to ensure Neighbours are not visually impacted.

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:

- Waka Kotahi / NZ Transport Agency

Our glint and glare study is underway and once finsihed will be send to NZTA for comment.

- Powerco

Powerco is happy with our grid connection studies and we have been invited to concept design stage for grid connection and been provided with indicative connection conditions for the contract.

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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:

None required.

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

None we are aware of.

Council requires us to inform iwi and consult only.

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:

Solar farms are non-toxic, produce low EMF, no noise and no adverse effects on the environment.

The land underneath the farm will be used for sheep farming, further increasing the productivity of the land. To minimise visual impact we will screen the site based on NZTA and neighbourhood concerns.

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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:

No impact to national environmental standard.

However

sheep dual usage.
gotta go somewhere relation to 33kV lines which run through the site.
CO2 emissions
Limited infrastructure, 100km from auckland, nz's biggest load centre
Flat land and sunny location.

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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:

Yes, absolutely. Our detailed feasibility studies and grid connection works have deemed this to be a great site and is situated on flat land with good sunshine resource. Due to the delays in grid connection which has now been resolved, we are ready to start construction within Q3 which commercial operation date being Q1 2025.

If we are required to obtain resource consent through the traditional method, the project will be further delayed for upto 18 months whilst we gain resource consent.

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

Please write your answer here:

Relative to other infrastructure projects, solar farms are modular, have low environment impact and can be built very fast. We can quickly show results on construction and the farm will be operational early 2025. Due to the nature of solar farms (low impact, fast, no noise etc) resource consent is always the largest barrier and fast tracking will allow us to get things built faster.

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

Other

Please explain your answer here:

Renewable Energy generating is a key element to many councils and National party policy to encourage renewable energy generation as a import part of reducing CO2 emissions and increasing New Zealand's energy supply.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

National significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

Nationally as any increase in generation helps with our country wide energy supply, thus reducing prices overall. Also the solar farm will offset CO2 emissions of approx 4,595 tonnes per year which has a global impact.

Will the project:

contribute to a well-functioning urban environment

Please explain your answer here:

Solar farms help mitiage climate chance by provide low CO2 energy generation.
They are also quiet and help decrease prices by increasing supply -further helping citizens in the cost of living crisis.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project will cost an approx § 9(2)(b)(ii) to construct and will provide jobs to almost 30-40 people during the construction and design phase. Economic benefits to the country are increased supply of energy.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes as the site will be dual use - both solar farming and sheep farming.
This allows for optimised land use by combining sheep farming and energy production.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The solar farm produces energy using plentiful sunshine with no CO2 emissions.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes absolutely, our farm will reduce CO2 emissions compared with our existing energy mix by 4,595 tonnes per year.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

No

Please explain your answer here:

The project will assist in mitigating climate change.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Does the project include 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:

Climate change may cause fluctuating generation due to increased weather variance.
Modeling shows minimal impact from this.

The site could be flooded, however flood study data will determine the heights of key equipment based on 1-200 year (0.5% APY) rainfall/flood event. Solar farms are flexible in that panels can be raised up easily to mitigate damage from flooding.

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:

None.

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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:

Brandon Smith

Important notes