

Section 3: Consultation

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

Meridian has engaged with the landowners, relevant local authorities and hapu-based trust (neighbours to the proposed solar development who are possible hosts for the transmission corridor) together with the local district and regional councils. Next steps will be more substantive engagement with relevant iwi, and other stakeholders and neighbouring landowners. This process was initiated in February 2024.

Table 1: Consultation with persons affected by the project and consultation outcomes

Persons affected by the project	Consultation undertaken to date	Outcomes (to date)
Relevant local authorities; -Taupō District Council -Waikato Regional Council	Meridian engaged directly with Taupō District Council at a face-to-face pre-application meeting in April 2024. Meridian engaged directly with Waikato Regional Council in April 2024 introducing the Project.	Discussion with TDC included the likely matters for consent, relationship between the Operative District Plan and plan changes, the NPS HPL assessment that will be required, and protection of the Signification Natural Area. Discussed key stakeholders. Discussion with WRC specifically focused primarily on the earthworks proposed and Meridian's proposed management.
Relevant iwi authorities; -Ngāti Tūwharetoa -Raukawa	Introductory hui held with Te Kotahitanga ko Ngāti Tūwharetoa (TKNT) in April to present the project concept and discuss appropriate next steps. Meridian has not yet engaged with Raukawa; an introduction to the project has been sent to Raukawa	Introduction to project sent to hapu delegate. Open communication with TKNT to continue as the project develops.

	Charitable Trust.	
Relevant Treaty settlement entities	Ngāti Tūwharetoa	Introduction to project sent to hapu delegate. Open communication with TKNT to continue as project develops.
Protected customary rights groups	N/A	
Customary marine title groups	N/A	
Applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal (Takutai Moana) Act 2011	N/A	
Ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou	N/A	
Any person with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 1981.	N/A	
Landowner	The project site comprises a single landowner who signed a development agreement with Meridian in September 2023.	Progressing development as per development agreement.
Neighbours to the project site(s)	Meridian has had initial contact or discussions with site neighbours. Meridian started engagement with the Proprietors of Hauhungaroa 1D3B in relation to the Project. This property is a strong option for transmission connection to the national grid. However, without an agreement with the owners this land parcel is 'ineligible' under the proposed FTAA.	Communication to continue as project develops. Introductory hui held in March 2024 with further hui with Hauhungaroa Board anticipated to follow in subsequent weeks. Consultation to occur in the near future.