

Jacob Paget

From: Max Gander-Cooper
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 8:35 am
To: Fast Track Consenting
Subject: FW: Opunake Solar Farm FTCA application
Attachments: TNG1_1027_Title_Search_Copy.pdf; TNK3_549_Title_Search_Copy.pdf

Hi Jake,

Could you please file this for Opunake?

Cheers

From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 8:21 am
To: Max Gander-Cooper s 9(2)(a)
Cc: Pete Grogan s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Opunake Solar Farm FTCA application

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

Good Morning Max,

Please see below answers to the queries raised (noted in red).

1. The application refers to a proposed underground connection to the national grid via the existing substation located at 909 Ihaia Road. Will any additional land need to be included within the project description to enable connection to that substation? Are any approvals required to enable connection to that substation?
The underground connection will cross directly from the subject site to the substation, as such there is no other land parcels that need to be included and no additional approval required.
2. Could you please also provide copies of the titles for the project site, including details of any instruments on the title which might impact project delivery?
Please see attached. There are no interests on these titles which will restrict the project.
3. The application states that funding for the project delivery will be sought once resource consents have been obtained. Are you please able to provide some more information about the potential funding source for the project, or the applicant's track record of delivering similar projects (this speaks to the applicant's ability to urgently promote employment as set out in the purpose of the Act)? Could you please also comment on whether the applicant requires any approvals under the Overseas Investment Act 2005?
In regard to finance the equity finance will be provided by Harmony Energy Limited. Harmony is Harmony Energy Limited is a successful, well capitalised, UK based renewable energy project development business with strong links to New Zealand, specifically, Pete Grogan, director is a kiwi living in NZ. Harmony recently raised £187m through an IPO on the London Stock Exchange and consequently it is in an extremely strong cash [[Harmony Energy Income Trust raises £187m through IPO | This is Money](#)]. Harmony has over 500 MW of energy projects connected or under construction int he UK.

Debt finance for renewable energy projects is widely available in the banking market. Harmony has recently transacted with NatWest and Santander. Both banks have lent extensively against solar assets in Europe and

Santander offers corporate banking services in Australasia. Harmony has had informal, early-stage discussions with Westpac, MUFG, Rabo Bank and ANZ and all lenders are enthusiastic about further discussions when consents are in place. In the UK Harmony has also raised debt finance against its UK assets with pension fund USS. Harmony is not anticipating any issues raising debt finance.

In financing the Tauhei Solar Farm Project, Harmony also has the option to collaborate with one of the partners it has worked with in the UK. Those partners include:

(1) FRV (www.frv.com/en/www.frv.com/en/)

(2) Tag Energy (<https://www.tag-en.com/>)

(3) BayWa (www.baywa.com)

The transactions Harmony has closed with Tesla, FRV and Tag Energy have been extensively reported on online.

In regard to OIA, this does not apply because the Applicant is not buying or leasing the land. Rather, the Applicant will be accessing the land via the Easement Agreement with the landowner. Easements are outside the Overseas Investment Act because the landowner retains extensive rights of access, occupation, and control over the land and, in this case, will continue to use the land for Farming Activities in parallel with the activities of the Applicant. Farming Activities are defined in the Easement Agreement as “grazing sheep or other suitable livestock on the Land and/or cropping grass or other suitable crops from the Land”).

4. You have provided job creation numbers in terms of labour hours. Could you please provide these figures in terms of full-time equivalent jobs per year?

Phase 1: Engineering, procurement and construction

12 month construction period = 557,264 total labour hours / total working hours (2,080) = 268 people working full time

18 month construction period = 557,264 total labour hours / total working hours (3,120) = 179 people working full time

Phase 2: Operation, maintenance and asset management

Life of project (34 years) = 10,728 total labour hours / total working hours in year (2,080) = 5 people working full time.

Please note that there will be additional job creation associated with ecological restoration, however as detail restoration plans are yet to be complete it is not possible to give an accurate estimate of this. Further, it is highly likely there will be in direct job creation associated with freight, local accommodation and food providers, however we have not speculated as to the extent of these.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

With thanks,
Christina

Christina Walker

Hamilton Manager, Principal Planner

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4Sight.Consulting



From: Max Gander-Cooper s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:26 AM
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Cc: Fast Track Consenting <fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Opunake Solar Farm FTCA application

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Kia ora Christina,

I hope you had a good New Year break.

I have been reviewing the application material provided with the Opunake Solar Farm fast-track application and I have a couple of points that I'd like to clarify with you.

1. the application refers to a proposed underground connection to the national grid via the existing substation located at 909 Ihaia Road. Will any additional land need to be included within the project description to enable connection to that substation? Are any approvals required to enable connection to that substation?
2. could you please also provide copies of the titles for the project site, including details of any instruments on the title which might impact project delivery?
3. the application states that funding for the project delivery will be sought once resource consents have been obtained. Are you please able to provide some more information about the potential funding source for the project, or the applicant's track record of delivering similar projects (this speaks to the applicant's ability to urgently promote employment as set out in the purpose of the Act)? Could you please also comment on whether the applicant requires any approvals under the Overseas Investment Act 2005?
4. You have provided job creation numbers in terms of labour hours. Could you please provide these figures in terms of full-time equivalent jobs per year?

Please give me a call if you would like to discuss any of these matters further.

Ngā mihi

Max Gander-Cooper (he/him)

*Senior Policy Analyst | Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua
Fast-track Consenting*

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

s 9(2)(a) | mfe.govt.nz