

FTC #197: Application for referred projects under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – Stage 1 decisions

Application 2022-130 Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project
Application 2022-143 Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project
Application 2022-146 Masterton Solar Farm Project

Date submitted:	16 March 2023	Tracking #: BRF-2853	
Security level:	In-Confidence	MfE priority:	Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment	Decision on recommendations in Table A	to be advised

Actions for Minister's Office staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Return the signed briefing to MfE. Send attached letters (if signed) with accompanying template and links to application documents.
Number of attachments: 5	<p>Attachments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application documents for Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project (Databox link) Application documents for Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project (Databox link) Application documents for Masterton Solar Farm Project (Databox link) Letter to Ministers – inviting comments on Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project, Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project and Masterton Solar Farm Project referrals Template for ministerial comment

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal Author	Melissa McGrath		
Acting Manager	Madeleine Berry	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Director	Caroline Hart	s 9(2)(a)	

FTC#197: Application for referred projects under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – Stage 1 decisions

Key messages

1. This briefing seeks your initial decisions on applications to refer the following projects to an expert consenting panel (a panel) under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA):
 - a. Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project, from Harmony Energy NZ #4 Limited
 - b. Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project, from Harmony Energy NZ #3 Limited
 - c. Masterton Solar Farm Project, from Harmony Energy NZ #2 Limited.

Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project

2. The project is to construct and operate a solar farm on an approximately 151-hectare site comprising 2 properties at 915 Ihaia Road, Opunake, Taranaki, and to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid. The solar farm will have an approximate installed capacity of 94 peak Megawatts.
3. The solar farm will comprise:
 - a. approximately 142,650 solar panels, occupying approximately 58 hectares
 - b. arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, and associated infrastructure
 - c. 26 power stations, two substations, one transformer and transmission line to connect to the national grid
 - d. ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure)
 - e. underground electricity cables
 - f. restoration and planting of wetlands and riparian margins of the Otahi Stream.
4. The project will require land use consents under the South Taranaki District Plan (STDP), water and discharge permits under the Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan (TRFP), and resource consents under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011 (NES-CS) and the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-F).
5. The project site is in the Rural zone under the STDP and the project will have discretionary activity status under that plan. The applicant notes the project is considered 'specified infrastructure' and will have discretionary activity status under the NES-F relating to construction, maintenance and operation of infrastructure in a natural wetland.

Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project

6. The project is to construct and operate a solar farm on an approximately 120-hectare site comprising 3 properties at 122 and 196 Whales Lane and 362 Pukepapa Road, Marton, and to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid via the Pukepapa Road legal road reserve. The solar farm will have an approximate installed capacity of 65 peak Megawatts.
7. The solar farm will comprise:
 - a. approximately 103,000 solar panels, occupying approximately 93 hectares
 - b. arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, underground cables and associated infrastructure

- c. 28 power stations, two substations and one transformer
 - d. ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure)
 - e. underground electricity cables, including within road reserve to connect to the Transpower substation at 362 Pukepapa Road, Marton
 - f. restoration and planting of riparian margins of the Tuaenui Stream.
8. The project will require land use consents under the Rangitikei District Plan (RDP), water and discharge permits under the Horizons Regional One Plan (HROP), and resource consents under the NES-CS and the NES-F.
 9. The project site is in the Rural zone under the RDP and the project will have discretionary activity status under that plan. The applicant notes the project is considered 'specified infrastructure' and will have discretionary activity status under the NES-F relating to construction, maintenance and operation of infrastructure in a natural wetland.

Masterton Solar Farm Project

10. The project is to construct and operate a solar farm on an approximately 218-hectare site comprising 5 properties at 271 Perrys Road, 510 Hughes Line and 303 East Taratahi Road, Carterton, and to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid via the Hughes Line and Cornwall Road legal road reserves. The solar farm will have an approximate installed capacity of 133 peak Megawatts.
11. The solar farm will comprise:
 - a. approximately 201,500 solar panels, occupying approximately 148 hectares
 - b. arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, and associated infrastructure
 - c. 32 medium voltage power stations, two substations, one transformer and transmission line to connect to the national grid
 - d. ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure)
 - e. underground electricity cables, including within road reserve to connect to the Transpower substation at 113 Cornwall Road, Carterton
 - f. restoration and planting of riparian areas of the Waikoukou Stream and an unnamed stream.
12. The project will require land use consents under the Wairarapa Combined District Plan (WCDP), water and discharge permits under the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region, and resource consents under the NES-CS and the NES-F.
13. The project site is partly in the Rural-Primary Production zone and partly in the Rural -Special zone under the WCDP, and the project will have discretionary activity status under that plan. The applicant notes the project is considered 'specified infrastructure' and will have discretionary activity status under the NES-F relating to construction, maintenance and operation of infrastructure in a natural wetland.

Analysis of projects

14. We have undertaken an initial (Stage 1) analysis of the referral applications and this is presented along with our recommendations in Table A.
15. The projects meet all the eligibility criteria in section 18(3) of the FTCA, but more analysis is needed before we can advise you if they meet the purpose of the FTCA (thus satisfying section 18(2) of the FTCA) and advise you on matters in section 23(5) which may influence your referral decision.

16. We recommend you progress consideration of all three applications to the next stage of analysis (Stage 2) and invite comments from the relevant local authorities and specific Ministers listed in section 21(6) of the FTCA.
17. We recommend that for all three projects you invite comments from the following additional Ministers under section 21(6)(n) of the FTCA:
 - a. Minister for Energy and Resources
 - b. Minister of Agriculture, as all three project sites include land that is likely to meet the definition of 'highly productive land' under the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022.
18. We also recommend that for all three projects you invite comments from Transpower New Zealand Limited as an additional party under section 21(3) of the FTCA.
19. We recommend that you request further information as detailed in Table A:
 - a. from South Taranaki District Council and Taranaki Regional Council for the Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project
 - b. from Rangitikei District Council and Horizons Regional Council for the Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project
 - c. from Carterton District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council for the Masterton Solar Farm Project.


Statutory framework summary

20. You are the sole decision maker for the referral applications as the projects will not occur in the coastal marine area.
21. You may decline a referral application before seeking comments from the relevant local authorities and any relevant Ministers:
 - a. if you are satisfied the project does not meet the referral criteria in section 18 of the FTCA, (which include helping to achieve the purpose of the FTCA) (see sections 18(2) and 23(1) of the FTCA)
 - b. for any other reason (see section 23(2) of the FTCA).
22. If you do not decline a referral application at this stage:
 - a. you must provide the application to, and invite comments from, the relevant local authorities and the relevant Ministers prescribed by section 21(6) of the FTCA
 - b. you may provide the application to and invite comments from any other person.
23. You are also able to request further information from the applicant or any relevant local authority at any time before you decide to decline or accept a referral application (see section 22 of the FTCA).

Action sought

24. Please indicate your decisions on the recommendations in Table A.

Signature



Madeleine Berry
Acting Manager – Fast-track Consenting

Table A: Stage 1 initial assessment of project eligibility – projects where the Minister for the Environment is the only decision maker

Projects to progress

Project details	Project description	Project funding	Is project eligible for referral? [section 18(3)]	Will project help to achieve the purpose of the FTCA? [section 18(2)]						Recommendations	Minister's decisions
				Economic benefits and costs for people or industries affected by COVID-19 [section 19(a)]	Effect on social and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations [section 19(b)]	Likelihood project will progress faster under the FTCA than would otherwise be the case [section 19(c)]	Public benefit [section 19(d)]	Potential for significant adverse environmental effects, including greenhouse gas emissions [section 19(e)]	Any other relevant matters [section 19(f)]		
<p>Name Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project</p> <p>Applicant Harmony Energy NZ #4 Limited</p> <p>c/- Christina Walker, 4sight Consulting Limited – Part of SLR</p> <p>Location 915 Ihaia Road, Opunake</p> <p>(Lots 8 and 21 DP 792, and Lot 2 DP 19301)</p>	<p>The project is to construct and operate a solar farm on an approximately 151-hectare site comprising 2 properties at 915 Ihaia Road, Opunake, Taranaki, and to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid. The solar farm will have an approximate installed capacity of 94 peak Megawatts.</p> <p>The solar farm will comprise:</p> <p>a. approximately 142,650 solar panels, occupying approximately 58 hectares</p> <p>b. arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, and associated infrastructure</p> <p>c. 26 power stations, two substations, one transformer and transmission line to connect to the national grid</p> <p>d. ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a</p>	<p>The applicant has provided information to demonstrate they have a track record of delivering projects of a similar or larger scale overseas.</p> <p>We are not concerned about the applicant's ability to fund and deliver the project.</p> <p>We note the ultimate holding company for Harmony Energy NZ #4 Limited is registered overseas. The applicant has stated they have an easement over the project site, which would not require Overseas Investment Office (OIO) consent.</p>	<p>Based on available information at this stage, we consider the project is eligible for referral because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it does not include any prohibited activities it does not include land returned under a Treaty settlement it does not occur in a customary marine title area or protected customary rights area under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. 	<p>The applicant estimates the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide approximately 179 to 286 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over a 12 to 18 month construction period; and 5 ongoing FTE jobs for the life of the project (approximately 34 years). 	<p>The applicant considers the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribute to the overall wellbeing of the area from the economic benefits from the employment opportunities contribute to increased electricity supply and security which will assist communities. 	<p>The applicant estimates the FTCA process will allow the project to progress 4.5 months faster than under standard Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) processes due to the likelihood of notification and a hearing, and potential for appeals.</p> <p>We recommend you seek comments from South Taranaki District Council and Taranaki Regional Council on the appropriateness of using the FTCA process.</p>	<p>Based on the applicant's information we consider the project may result in the following public benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> generating employment by providing approximately 286 direct FTE jobs over a 12-month construction period; or 179 direct FTE jobs over an 18-month construction period; and 5 ongoing FTE jobs for the life of the project (approximately 34 years) providing infrastructure that will contribute to improving economic and employment outcomes assisting New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low emissions economy by increasing New Zealand's total amount of renewable energy generation. 	<p>The project has the potential for adverse environmental effects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> landscape and visual effects traffic generation and effects on access ecological and biological effects (including on wetlands) temporary construction effects, including noise and vibration glint and glare effects contaminated land effects loss of productive land cultural and archeological effects <p>The applicant has confirmed that specialists have prepared technical assessments on the above matters. The applicant considers the project will not result in significant adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>We note that you do not require a full Assessment of Environment Effects and supporting evidence to make a referral decision, and that a panel will consider the significance of effects and appropriate mitigation should the project be referred.</p>	<p>The project involves vegetation clearance, earthworks and land disturbance within, or within a 10-metre setback from, natural wetlands. The applicant has provided an assessment which states the project meets the definition of specified infrastructure under the NES-F and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM), as it is infrastructure that delivers a service operated by a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002). We are satisfied at this stage that the project will not include prohibited activities.</p> <p>The applicant states the solar farm will be connected to Transpower New Zealand Limited's (Transpower's) substation located on the adjacent property at 909 Ihaia Road, Opunake via an underground connection. We recommend you seek comment from Transpower on whether any approvals are required from them to allow connection to</p>	<p>a. Note that section 23(3) of the FTCA permits you to decline the referral application without inviting comments from the relevant local authorities and any relevant Ministers.</p> <p>b. Note that you have not yet provided the application to, nor sought any comments on it from, relevant local authorities or relevant Ministers but that you are required to do so if you do not decline the application under section 23(3) of the FTCA.</p> <p>c. Note that section 21(3) of the FTCA permits you to forward an application to, and invite written comments from, any other person.</p> <p>d. Note that section 22 of the FTCA permits you to request further information from the applicant or relevant local authorities at any time before you decide whether to accept or decline an application.</p> <p>e. Agree to progress the Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project to our Stage 2 analysis. The project warrants further analysis because it has potential to achieve the purpose of the FTCA but we need to consider some matters further before providing you with our final advice on the referral application.</p> <p>f. Agree to provide the application to, and invite comments from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Ministers listed in section 21(6)(a)–(m) of the FTCA. the Minister of Energy and Resources and Minister of Agriculture as additional relevant Ministers under section 21(6)(n) of the FTCA. the relevant local authorities – South Taranaki District Council and Taranaki Regional Council Transpower New Zealand 	<p>Yes/No</p> <p>Yes/No</p>

Project details	Project description	Project funding	Is project eligible for referral? [section 18(3)]	Will project help to achieve the purpose of the FTCA? [section 18(2)]						Recommendations	Minister's decisions
				Economic benefits and costs for people or industries affected by COVID-19 [section 19(a)]	Effect on social and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations [section 19(b)]	Likelihood project will progress faster under the FTCA than would otherwise be the case [section 19(c)]	Public benefit [section 19(d)]	Potential for significant adverse environmental effects, including greenhouse gas emissions [section 19(e)]	Any other relevant matters [section 19(f)]		
	<p>storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure)</p> <p>e. underground electricity cables</p> <p>f. restoration and planting of wetlands and riparian margins of the Otahi Stream.</p> <p>The project will involve activities such as: clearing vegetation (including within, or within 10 metres of, a natural wetland); carrying out earthworks (including disturbing potentially contaminated soils) within, or within 10 metres of, a natural wetland; diverting groundwater, discharging groundwater, stormwater and contaminants to land and water; constructing buildings and other structures; installing underground electricity cables; installing infrastructure ancillary to the solar farm; restoring and planting in natural wetlands; constructing and</p>								<p>their assets, and whether they anticipate that this may have an impact on project delivery or timing.</p>	<p>Limited.</p> <p>g. Sign the attached letters to Ministers.</p> <p>h. Note that while awaiting comments from invited parties, the Ministry for the Environment will, in consultation with the Office of Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, prepare a report for the purpose of section 17 of the FTCA.</p>	

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				Economic benefits and costs for people or industries affected by COVID-19 [section 19(a)]	Effect on social and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations [section 19(b)]	Likelihood project will progress faster under the FTCA than would otherwise be the case [section 19(c)]	Public benefit [section 19(d)]	Potential for significant adverse environmental effects, including greenhouse gas emissions [section 19(e)]	Any other relevant matters [section 19(f)]		
	<p>upgrading roads, vehicle access and parking areas; landscaping and planting; operating a solar farm; offering educational visits for students and other visitors.</p> <p>The project will require land use consents under the South Taranaki District Plan (STDP), water and discharge permits under the Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan, and resource consents under the NES-CS and NES-F.</p>										
<p>Name Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project</p> <p>Applicant Harmony Energy NZ #3 Limited c/- Christina Walker, 4sight Consulting Limited – Part of SLR</p> <p>Location 122 and 196 Whales Lane Marton, 362 Pukepapa Road Marton and</p>	<p>The project is to construct and operate a solar farm on an approximately 120-hectare site comprising 3 properties at 122 and 196 Whales Lane and 362 Pukepapa Road, Marton, and to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid via the Pukepapa Road legal road reserve. The solar farm will have an approximate installed capacity of 65 peak Megawatts.</p>	<p>The applicant has provided information to demonstrate they have a track record of delivering projects of a similar or larger scale overseas.</p> <p>We are not concerned about the applicant's ability to fund and deliver the project.</p> <p>We note the ultimate holding company for Harmony Energy NZ #3</p>	<p>Based on available information at this stage, we consider the project is eligible for referral because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it does not include any prohibited activities it does not include land returned under a Treaty settlement it does not occur in a customary marine 	<p>The applicant estimates the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide approximately 87 – 130 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over a 12 to 18 month construction period ; and 5 ongoing FTE jobs for the life of the project (approximately 35 years). 	<p>The applicant considers the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribute to the overall wellbeing of the area from the economic benefits from the employment opportunities contribute to increased electricity supply and security which will assist communities. 	<p>The applicant estimates the FTCA process will allow the project to progress 12-20 months faster than under standard RMA processes due to the likelihood of notification and a hearing and potential for appeals.</p> <p>We recommend you seek comments from Rangitikei District Council and Horizons Regional Council on the appropriateness</p>	<p>Based on the applicant's information we consider the project may result in the following public benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> generating employment by providing approximately 130 FTE jobs over a 12-month construction period or 87 FTE jobs over a 18-month construction period and 5 ongoing FTE jobs providing infrastructure that will 	<p>The project has the potential for adverse environmental effects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> traffic and access amenity effects landscape, rural character and visual amenity ecological effects noise and vibration temporary construction effects contaminated land effects loss of productive land. <p>The applicant has confirmed that specialists have prepared technical assessments on the above matters. The</p>	<p>The project involves vegetation clearance, earthworks and land disturbance within, or within a 10-metre setback, from natural wetlands. The applicant has provided an assessment which states the project meets the definition of specified infrastructure under the NES-F and NPS-FM, as it is infrastructure that delivers a service operated by a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002). We are satisfied at this stage</p>	<p>a. Note that section 23(3) of the FTCA permits you to decline the referral application without inviting comments from the relevant local authorities and any relevant Ministers.</p> <p>b. Note that you have not yet provided the application to, nor sought any comments on it from, relevant local authorities or relevant Ministers but that you are required to do so if you do not decline the application under section 23(3) of the FTCA.</p> <p>c. Note that section 21(3) of the FTCA permits you to forward an application to, and invite written comments from, any other person.</p> <p>d. Note that section 22 of the FTCA permits you to request further information from the applicant or relevant local authorities at any time before you decide whether to accept or decline an application.</p>	

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				Economic benefits and costs for people or industries affected by COVID-19 [section 19(a)]	Effect on social and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations [section 19(b)]	Likelihood project will progress faster under the FTCA than would otherwise be the case [section 19(c)]	Public benefit [section 19(d)]	Potential for significant adverse environmental effects, including greenhouse gas emissions [section 19(e)]	Any other relevant matters [section 19(f)]		
Pukepapa Road Reserve Marton, (Lot 1 DP 301560, Lot 6A Application Plan 1550, Part Sections 1 – 3 5 Rangitikei Agricultural Reserve)	<p>The solar farm will comprise:</p> <p>a. approximately 103,000 solar panels, occupying approximately 93 hectares</p> <p>b. arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, underground cables and associated infrastructure</p> <p>c. 28 power stations, two substations and one transformer</p> <p>d. ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure)</p> <p>e. underground electricity cables, including within road reserve to connect to the Transpower substation at 362 Pukepapa Road, Marton</p> <p>f. restoration and planting of riparian margins of the Tuaeui Stream.</p> <p>The project will</p>	Limited is registered overseas. The applicant has stated that they have an easement over the project site, which would not require Overseas Investment Office (OIO) consent.	title area or protected customary rights area under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.			of using the FTCA process.	<p>contribute to improving economic and employment outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assisting New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low emissions economy by increasing New Zealand's total amount of renewable energy generation. 	<p>applicant considers the project will not result in significant adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>We note that you do not require a full Assessment of Environment Effects and supporting evidence to make a referral decision, and that a panel will consider the significance of effects and appropriate mitigation should the project be referred.</p>	<p>that the project will not include prohibited activities.</p> <p>The applicant states the solar farm will be connected to Transpower's Marton substation located approximately 3km from the site via an underground cable within the Pukepapa Road reserve. We recommend you seek comment from Transpower on whether any approvals are required from them to allow connection to their assets, and whether they anticipate that this may have an impact on project delivery or timing.</p>	<p>e. Agree to progress the Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project to our Stage 2 analysis. The project warrants further analysis because it has potential to achieve the purpose of the FTCA but we need to consider some matters further before providing you with our final advice on the referral application.</p> <p>f. Agree to provide the application to, and invite comments from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Ministers listed in section 21(6)(a)–(m) of the FTCA. the Minister of Energy and Resources and Minister of Agriculture as additional relevant Ministers under section 21(6)(n) of the FTCA. the relevant local authorities – Rangitikei District Council and Horizons Regional Council Transpower New Zealand Limited <p>g. Sign the attached letters to Ministers.</p> <p>h. Note that while awaiting comments from invited parties, the Ministry for the Environment will, in consultation with the Office of Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, prepare a report for the purpose of section 17 of the FTCA.</p>	<p>Yes/No</p> <p>Yes/No</p>

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				Economic benefits and costs for people or industries affected by COVID-19 [section 19(a)]	Effect on social and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations [section 19(b)]	Likelihood project will progress faster under the FTCA than would otherwise be the case [section 19(c)]	Public benefit [section 19(d)]	Potential for significant adverse environmental effects, including greenhouse gas emissions [section 19(e)]	Any other relevant matters [section 19(f)]		
	<p>involve activities such as: clearing vegetation (including within, or within 10 metres of, a natural wetland); carrying out earthworks (including disturbing potentially contaminated soils); carrying out earthworks within, or within 10 metres of, a natural wetland; diverting groundwater, discharging groundwater, stormwater and contaminants to land and water; constructing buildings and other structures; installing underground electricity cables; installing infrastructure ancillary to the solar farm; restoring and planting in natural wetlands; constructing and upgrading roads, vehicle access and parking areas; landscaping and planting; operating a solar farm; offering educational visits for students and other visitors.</p> <p>The project will require land use consents under the Rangitikei District Plan (RDP), water and</p>										

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Taratahi Plain Block, Part Section 74 Taratahi Plain Block and Part Defined on Application Plan 1737)	<p>cabinets, and associated infrastructure</p> <p>c. 32 medium voltage power stations, two substations, one transformer and d transmission line to connect to the national grid</p> <p>d. ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure)</p> <p>e. underground electricity cables, including within road reserve to connect to the Transpower substation at 113 Cornwall Road, Carterton</p> <p>f. restoration and planting of riparian areas of the Waikoukou Stream and an unnamed stream</p> <p>The project will involve activities such as: clearing vegetation (including within, or within 10 metres of, a natural wetland); carrying out</p>						quickly to a low emissions economy by increasing New Zealand's total amount of renewable energy generation.	referral decision, and that a panel will consider the significance of effects and appropriate mitigation should the project be referred.	The road reserve forms part of the project site. We recommend you seek comment from Transpower on whether any approvals are required from them to allow connection to their assets, and whether they anticipate that this may have an impact on project delivery or timing.	<p>Resources and the Minister of Agriculture as additional relevant Ministers under section 21(6)(n) of the FTCA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the relevant local authorities – Carterton District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council Transpower New Zealand Limited. <p>g. Sign the attached letters to Ministers.</p> <p>h. Note that while awaiting comments from invited parties, the Ministry for the Environment will, in consultation with the Office of Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, prepare a report for the purpose of section 17 of the FTCA.</p>	

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	<p>earthworks (including disturbing potentially contaminated soils) within, or within 10 metres of, a natural wetland; diverting groundwater, discharging groundwater, stormwater and contaminants to land and water; constructing buildings and other structures; installing underground electricity cables; installing infrastructure ancillary to the solar farm; restoring and planting in natural wetlands; constructing and upgrading roads, vehicle access and parking areas; landscaping and planting; operating a solar farm; offering educational visits for students and other visitors.</p> <p>The project will require land use consents under the Wairarapa Combined District Plan (WCDP), water and discharge permits under the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region, and resource consents under</p>										

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				Economic benefits and costs for people or industries affected by COVID-19 [section 19(a)]	Effect on social and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations [section 19(b)]	Likelihood project will progress faster under the FTCA than would otherwise be the case [section 19(c)]	Public benefit [section 19(d)]	Potential for significant adverse environmental effects, including greenhouse gas emissions [section 19(e)]	Any other relevant matters [section 19(f)]		
	the NES-CS and the NES-F.										

Signed:

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date: