

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



BRF-2853

Ministers of/for:

Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Energy and Resources; Infrastructure; Education; Transport; Land Information; Agriculture; Defence; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Conservation; and Climate Change;

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral applications – Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project, Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project and Masterton Solar Farm Project

I have received three applications to refer projects to an expert consenting panel (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA.

The purpose of the FTCA is to urgently promote employment to support New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and to support certainty of investment while continuing to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The projects are described in Appendix A, and the application documents are in Attachments 1 to 3.

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral applications. If I accept the applications and the projects are referred, the applicants will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the projects, and panels will be appointed to consider and decide them. The applicants must provide a more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessments as part of their RMA applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panels.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish me to take them into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the referral application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

A. Description of proposed projects

Attachments:

1. Application to refer Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Application to refer Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
3. Application to refer Masterton Solar Farm Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Appendix A - Proposed projects

Project	Applicant	Details
Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Opunake Project	Harmony Energy NZ #4 Limited	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. The solar farm will comprise: - approximately 142,650 solar panels, occupying approximately 58 hectares - arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, and associated infrastructure 26 power stations, two substations, one transformer and transmission line to connect to the national grid - ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure) - underground electricity cables - restoration and planting of wetlands and riparian margins of the Otahi Stream.
Harmony Energy Solar Farm–Marton Project	Harmony Energy NZ #3 Limited	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. The solar farm will comprise: - approximately 103,000 solar panels, occupying approximately 93 hectares - arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, underground cables and associated infrastructure 28 power stations, two substations and one transformer - ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure) - underground electricity cables, including within road reserve to connect to the Transpower substation at 362 Pukepapa Road, Marton - restoration and planting of riparian margins of the Tuaenui Stream.

Masterton Solar Farm Project	Harmony Energy NZ #2 Limited	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. The solar farm will comprise: - approximately 201,500 solar panels, occupying approximately 148 hectares - arrays and mounting structures, inverter cabinets, and associated infrastructure 32 medium voltage power stations, two substations, one transformer and transmission line to connect to the national grid - ancillary buildings, structures and infrastructure (including a storage building, roads, access, security fencing, CCTV poles and other infrastructure) - underground electricity cables, including within road reserve to connect to the Transpower substation at 113 Cornwall Road, Carterton - restoration and planting of riparian areas of the Waikoukou Stream and an unnamed stream.
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