

28 February 2023

Energy Farms Limited
C/- Thomas Keogh
Reyburn and Bryant 1999 Limited
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Thomas Keogh

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – request for further information
– Marton Solar Farm Project**

Thank you for Energy Farms Limited's application to refer the Marton Solar Farm Project to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

Under delegated authority from the Minister for the Environment (the Minister), I am writing to request the following further information under section 22 of the FTCA:

1. A copy of the sale and purchase agreements for Lot 4 and 5 DP 10517 to confirm that none of the conditions will prevent, limit or delay the applicant's purchase of the properties or project delivery. Alternatively, you can provide written evidence that the current owners of Lot 4 and 5 DP 10517 agree to the project proceeding.
2. An economic assessment for the project. We note the economic assessment provided is for a different project (Wellsford solar farm).
3. Shapefile/s or a KML file to clearly define the project area/scope.
4. Confirm the expected solar farm output expressed in terms of Megawatt-peak (MWp).
5. The application states the solar farm will be connected to Transpower's network via the existing 110kV overhead powerlines that traverse the site. Provide the following:
 - a. details of agreements made with Transpower for approval to connect into its infrastructure
 - b. whether obtaining the above approval will impact your anticipated project timeframes

6. The Ecological Executive Summary provided with the application concludes that a potential wetland is located in the northern end of the property which is a non-wetland area under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-F). Provide:
 - a. further assessment and/or a statement of opinion from the ecologist to confirm whether or not the wetland falls within the definition of wetland under the Rangitikei District Plan (RDP)
 - b. identify rule infringements and activity status of any work within proximity to the wetland (with particular reference to General Rules within the RDP)
7. Provide evidence of any consultation undertaken with the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (Horizons Regional Council) regarding the Tutaenui Dam designation (D7) on the site under the RDP, including to obtain written consent under section 176 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
8. We have identified inconsistencies between the application form and the Beca Civil Report provided with the application, which may result in additional rule infringements/reasons for consent. Provide further information to confirm compliance or identify infringements of the following:
 - a. the need to establish roads and access within 12m of the Transpower 110kV Overhead Transmission Line. Provide further information to confirm compliance with Rule B1.13
 - b. the need to install culverts within streams. Provide further information to confirm compliance with the NES-F or alternatively confirm infringements

Please provide the required information via return email within 10 working days so that the Minister can take it into account when deciding whether to accept the referral application.

Please note the Minister is not required to consider information provided after this time but he may do so at his discretion. To ensure there is sufficient time for the application to be considered through the referral process before the FTCA is repealed, it is suggested you compile the requested information in full as soon as possible. Please email any responses to fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz before the due date.

Yours sincerely



Madeleine Berry
Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team