

30 March 2023

Contact Energy Limited
c/- Brigid Buckley

Email: brigid.buckley@contactenergy.co.nz

Dear Brigid Buckley

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

Thank you for Contact Energy Limited's application to refer the Southland Wind Farm Project (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. Provide the following information to confirm the location and scope of the project:
 - a. A site layout plan(s) clearly showing:
 - i. all land parcels within the project footprint, including existing cadastral boundaries and legal description/record of titles labelled
 - ii. territorial authority and regional council boundaries
 - iii. any natural wetlands, particularly the location of those where consent is being sought under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-F)
 - iv. the dimensions and footprint of the notice of requirement being sought for the transmission line routes/infrastructure
 - v. the core elements of the project as outlined in part III of the application form, including site access and any locations where upgrading is proposed to legal roads
 - b. The application form references 90-hectares of land that has been purchased by Contact Energy Limited for access and ancillary activities for the project. Confirm whether this land is currently included within the project scope, and if not, consider whether it should be. If the land is to be included, ensure updated legal description and record of title information is provided, and that the site layout plan(s) provided in response to question 1(a) include the land.

2. The application includes three potential transmission line routes to connect to the national grid and two options for the switching station location. Provide the following:
 - a. confirm whether you wish all transmission and switching station options to be considered by the Minister in the referral application for the project
 - b. advise whether the preferred transmission line route has been selected, and if so whether a decision has been made to pursue a resource consent or notice of requirement pathway
3. Provide further supporting information on the applicant(s)' legal interest (if any) in the private land on which the project will occur, particularly the three transmission line routes, including analysis of how this affects the applicant's ability to undertake the work, in order to satisfy section 20(3)(k) of the FTCA.
4. The application details that it is the intention to acquire private land required for the project by negotiation. However for private land where no legally binding agreements are in place, provide details of the alternative process that would be pursued by the applicant to acquire the land and any impacts such a process would have on project certainty/delivery and timing.
5. Provide further details of consultation undertaken with, and approvals required from, the following parties, including any impacts obtaining such approvals may have on project certainty/delivery and timing:
 - a. Transpower in relation to the connection into the national grid
 - b. relevant territorial authorities and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (if applicable) where roading upgrades are required as part of the project
 - c. Civil Aviation Authority
6. Provide a copy of the economic assessment referred to in the application and ensure that employment generation figures are presented in direct full time equivalent (FTE) jobs per year/construction period and direct on-going FTE jobs for the project. We also note it is unclear why the FTEs for the construction period is a broad range of 160-240 FTEs and this should be addressed in the response.
7. Provide a shapefile/s or a KML file to clearly define the project footprint.
8. Confirm the expected wind farm output expressed in terms of Megawatt-peak (MWp).
9. Provide an analysis of any relevant instruments registered on the records of title for the project site to ensure that none of these will impact on project delivery or timing.

Please provide the required information via return email to fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz by close of business on 31 March 2023 so 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Perrett', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Rebecca Perrett
Acting Manager – Fast-track Consenting