



Aide Memoire:

FTC #267: Correction to application for referred project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act – Stage 2 decisions

Application 2023-166 Southland Wind Farm Project

Date submitted:	21 June 2023	Tracking #: BRF-3487	
Security level:	In-Confidence	MfE priority:	URGENT

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment	Decision on recommendations	Urgent

Actions for Minister's Office staff	Return the signed briefing to MfE.
Number of attachments: 1	Attachment: 1. Notice of Decision – Southland Wind Farm Project

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal Author	Jess Hollis		
Manager	Rebecca Perrett	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Director	Lorena Stephens	s 9(2)(a)	

FTC #267: Correction to application for referred project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act – Stage 2 decisions

Purpose

1. The purpose of this aide memoire is to:
 - a. correct information related to your decision to refer Contact Energy Limited's Southland Wind Farm Project (project) to an expert consenting panel under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA)
 - b. seek your agreement to sign and issue an amended Notice of Decisions letter for the project.

Background

2. The project is to construct and operate a wind farm in Southland, and to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid. You agreed to recommendations in our Stage 2 briefing (BRF-3158) provided for the project and sent a Notice of Decisions letter to Contact Energy Limited on 15 June 2023.
3. Paragraph 4 and Table A of the Stage 2 briefing for the project (BRF-3158) stated (with the salient point in bold):

“The wind farm will comprise up to 55 wind turbines with blade tip heights up to **200 metres** high and will have an approximate installed capacity of 230–300 Megawatt peak.”
4. Your Notice of Decisions letter also contained this sentence.

Corrections required

5. It has come to our attention that our advice in paragraph 4 and Table A of BRF-3158, and as a result, your Notice of Decisions letter, contained a typographical error. The wind turbines will have blade tip heights up to 220 metres high.
6. The 220-metre height was stated in the referral application form and supporting documentation for the project. This information was provided to all parties invited to comment on the referral application.
7. We consider it would be appropriate to amend the project description in the Notice of Decisions letter to correct the error. Without this amendment, there is potential that an application to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for wind turbines between 200 and 220 metres high could be determined by the EPA or a panel to be inconsistent with, and therefore not give effect to, your referral decision. This would cause unnecessary delay, cost and re-work. We consider the change to be minor, within the scope of the referral application and consistent with the procedural principles in section 10 of the FTCA.
8. We recommend that you sign an amended Notice of Decisions letter with the following project description (showing tracked changes as deletions in strikethrough and additions underlined):

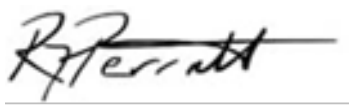
“The wind farm will comprise up to 55 wind turbines with blade tip heights up to ~~200~~ 220 metres high and will have an approximate installed capacity of 230–300 Megawatt peak.”

Recommendations

1. We recommend you:
 - a. **note** the contents of this aide memoire
 - b. **agree** to sign and re-issue the Notice of Decisions letter for the Southland Wind Farm Project.

Yes/No

Signature



Rebecca Perrett
Acting Manager – Fast-track Consenting

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date: