



BRF-2935

Ministers of/for:

Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Energy and Resources Infrastructure; Education; Transport; Land Information; 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 – Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project **Out of Scope**
Out of Scope

I have received two 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 described in Appendix A, and the application documents are in Attachments 1 and 2.

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 more detailed environmental assessments and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of their RMA applications. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panel(s).

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 Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

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A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey block, covering the content of the attachment listed above.

Appendix A - Proposed projects

Project	Applicant	Details
Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project	NZ Windfarms Limited	The project is to develop and expand the existing Te Rere Hau Wind Farm, by: installing up to nine three-bladed turbines up to 162 metres high, at Forest Hill Road (to the north of the existing wind farm) decommissioning eight existing turbines, upgrading and widening 10.5 kilometres of internal access roads, upgrading existing public roads, and installing new ancillary infrastructure and structures.

Out of Scope

