

BRF-2935

Bryan Nicholson
Chief Executive
Taranaki District Council
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Bryan Nicholson

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project

The Minister for the Environment (Minister) has received an application from NZ Windfarms Limited to refer the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The purpose of the FTCA is to 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 project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

Taranaki District Council may have an interest in the project because it may involve works within the extent of the district. Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2.

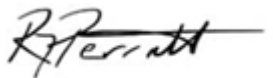
The above information is provided to you in confidence and as part of the statutory process set out in the FTCA. Please do not forward the application or request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

If the Minister accepts the application and the project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant must provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of this process.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the referral application. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or to discuss the application], please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

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 Team

Appendix:

- A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Response template for written comments

cc: Chris Chapman, Group Manager – Infrastructure, s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project	NZ Windfarms Limited	<p>The project is to develop and expand the existing Te Rere Hau Wind Farm, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. installing up to nine three-bladed turbines up to 162 metres high, at Forest Hill Road (to the north of the existing wind farm)b. decommissioning eight existing turbinesc. upgrading and widening 10.5 kilometres of internal access roadsd. upgrading existing public roads, ande. installing new ancillary infrastructure and structures.