

BRF-2935

Michael McCartney  
Chief Executive Officer  
Horizons Regional Council  
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Michael McCartney

**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 (panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA, I invite Horizons Regional Council to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2. Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table below, and on any other matter you consider relevant to the Minister's decision on whether or not to accept the application.

Specific questions on the application
1. Are there any reasons that you consider it more appropriate for the project, or part of the project, to proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the FTCA?
2. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your region?



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, Horizons Regional Council will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine the RMA approvals for the project. The applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental

effects and cultural impact assessments at this stage and the council will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes them into consideration when making his decision. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If it is more efficient for you to discuss the application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at [fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz) to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely



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)
2. Response template for written comments

cc: Greg Bevin, Regulatory Manager, s 9(2)(a)

## Appendix A – Details of 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"><li>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)</li><li>b. decommissioning eight existing turbines</li><li>c. upgrading and widening 10.5 kilometres of internal access roads</li><li>d. upgrading existing public roads, and</li><li>e. installing new ancillary infrastructure and structures.</li></ul>