

2023-04-06

Rebecca Perrett  
Acting Manager, Fast Track Consenting Team  
Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
Wellington 6143

Via email: [fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz)

Dear Rebecca,

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020: Response to the Request (RFI) for Further Information – Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project**

Thank you for your letter requesting further information in relation to Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project (the Project). The following information is provided in response to the RFI dated 31 March 2023.

1. *What approvals are required to undertake the upgrades to public roads referred to in the application? If you aren't able to obtain those approvals, will that affect project delivery?*

At this stage, it is considered likely that only shoulder widening and corner easing on North Range Road, Back Road and sightline improvements at the intersection of North Range Road and Pahiatua Track will be required. However, upgrades to public roads will be determined through detailed design, as specific turbine component lengths and appropriate access requirements are confirmed. From recent Lidar review utilising a 62m blade transporter, all minor corner easing works fall below Permitted Activity standards for 'Road Zone' works under both Operative Palmerston North District and Tararua District Plans.

Corridor Access Requests are likely to be required. These are typically undertaken post-consent and co-lodged with the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to facilitate placement and thereafter maintenance of temporary traffic management measures, sign replacement or relocation etc.

It is noted that during the construction of the adjacent Turitea Wind Farm (56m blades), the blade transporters utilised the same routes as proposed for the Project and undertook minor pavement widening and sightline improvements as appropriate, without the requirement for any new or additional resource consents. As such, it is considered that the route is generally fit for purpose and appropriate for the proposed turbine component haulage.

2. *Does the project scope need to be expanded to include any additional land to enable connection to either the Te Rere Hau and Tararua Substations, or to the Bunnythorpe to Linton transmission line?*

An updated list of properties was provided to the Ministry for the Environment on 21 March 2023, incorporating the Project Description and associated Project Plan / Map images for the Referral application. This update has been provided to encompass the full extent of the Project, inclusive of all listed options for Grid Connection Options 1 and 2. This updated Project Description is attached to this response for convenience as **Attachment 1**.

3. *Are any additional approvals required to connect to either a substation or transmission line? If you aren't able to obtain those approvals, will that affect project delivery?*

At this stage, multiple grid connection options are proposed to provide flexibility in design and approval pathways. As such, subject to detailed design and further discussions with Transpower (being the owner and operator of the national grid), the Project will seek to consent both substation improvements (Grid Connection Options 1 and 2), and the new physical transmission line for Grid Connection Option 2. However, Transpower will need to consent the Hard-Tee and/or the thermal up-rating of the existing cables under either option. For these works, Transpower has the ability to utilise the National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission. These matters have been discussed at a preliminary stage with Transpower, and subject to design review, are not considered to hold any complex consenting risks or delays. We understand that Transpower are accepting of the proposed approach to the Project.

We trust that there is now sufficient information provided in order for the Minister to make the decision as to whether to refer the Project. However, if you have any queries, or matters related to this response, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Gascoigne'.

Stephen Gascoigne  
Senior Consultant, Environment & Planning

**Attachment 1** Updated Project Description

**Attachment 1 – Updated Project Description**

## **Te Rere Hau: Aotaukere Extension Project – Project Description**

*Parcels which contain turbines:*

- Section 27 Block II Mangahao SD
- Section 34 Block II Mangahao SD
- Section 25 Block II Mangahao SD
- Section 22 Block II Mangahao SD

*Parcels which contain access routes (which may involve the removal of some existing TRH turbines):*

- Section 3 Block II Mangahao SD
- Section 5 Block II Mangahao SD
- Section 7 Block II Mangahao SD
- Road Reserve (North Range Road)

### *Transmission Line Options*

Preferred Option 1 – No Upgrade

- Section 3 Block II Mangahao SD (Collector Substation upgrade)
- Some internal cabling upgrades on parcels listed above

Preferred Option 1 – Upgraded

- Section 2 Block II Mangahao SD
- Subdivision 3 Sec 26 Block II Mangahao SD
- Section 36 Block I Mangahao SD
- Section 18 Block II Mangahao SD
- Some internal cabling upgrades on parcels listed above

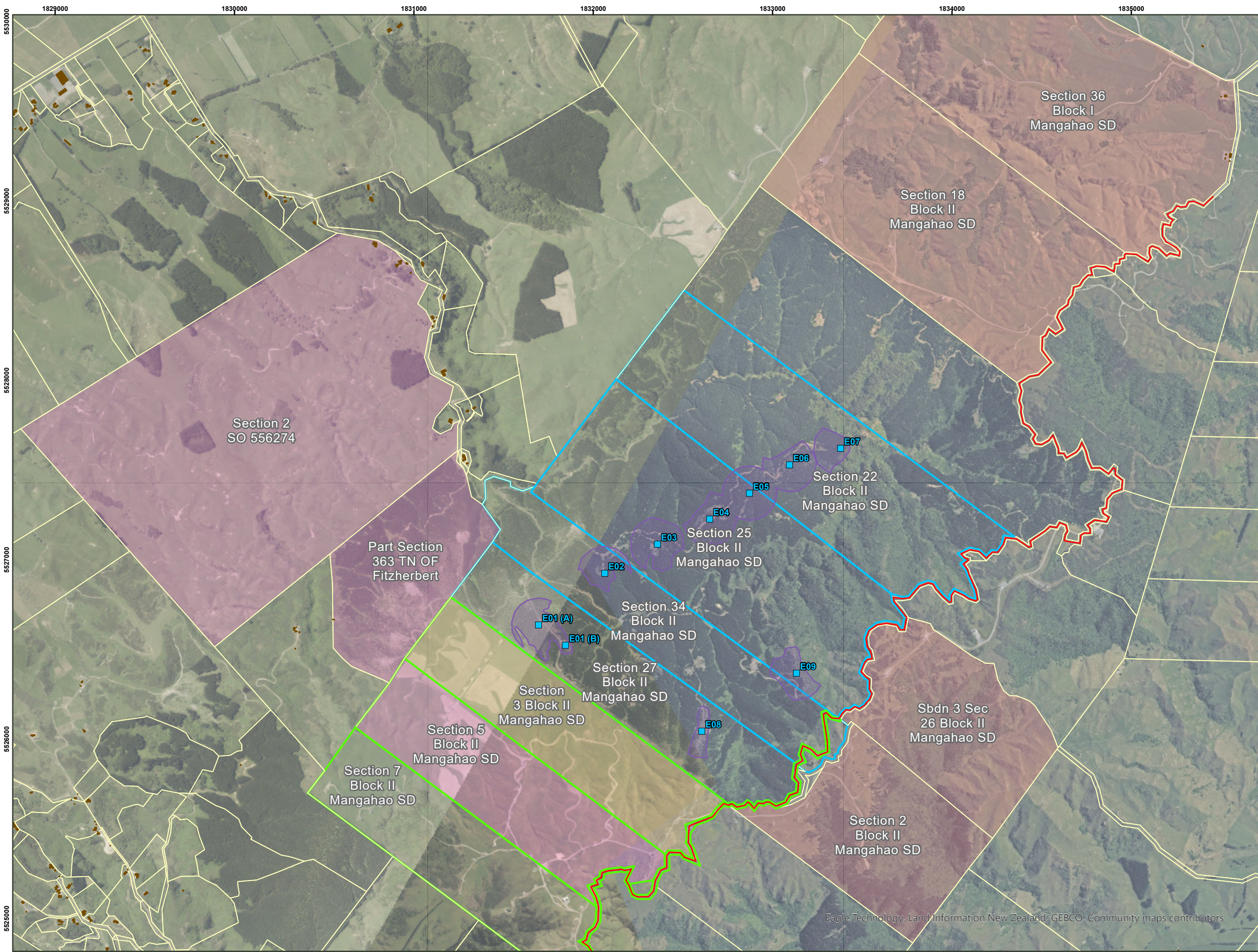
Alternative Smaller Option 2 – No Upgrade

- Section 5 Block II Mangahao SD
- Part Section 363 Town Of Fitzherbert
- Section 2 SO 556274

Alternative Option 2 – Upgraded

- Section 5 Block II Mangahao SD
- Part Section 363 Town of Fitzherbert
- Section 2 SO 556274





**Legend**

Ernslaw - Proposed Turbine Layout

Turbine Flexibility Zone

North Range Road

Turbine Parcels

Access Route Parcels

Primary Parcels

Existing Building

**Transmission Line Options**

Alternative Smaller Option 2 – No Upgrade  
Alternative Option 2 – Upgraded

Preferred Option 1 – Upgraded

Preferred Option 1 – No Upgrade (Collector Substation upgrade)

**Notes**

1. Data Sourced:  
LDS: parcel boundaries (<https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/50772-nz-primary-parcels/>)  
LDS: elevation data (<https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/104502-manawatu-whanganui-palmerston-north-lidar-1m-dem-2018/>)

2. Aerial photo source via LINZ Data Service.

3. Access route may involve the removal of some existing TRH turbines.

4. Preferred Option 1 - Some internal cabling upgrades on parcels listed

A person using the Aurecon drawings and other data accepts the risk of using the drawings and other data:  
1. In electronic form without requesting and checking them for accuracy against the original hard copy versions;  
2. For any purposes not agreed to in writing by Aurecon.  
Wherever a discrepancy in the contract documents is found and unless directed otherwise by the Principal/Engineer, the contractor shall adopt, at their own cost the greater quantum, class of finish, grade, or specification where applicable.

Date: 20/03/2023 Path: C:\Users\hamish.visser\Aurecon Group\IP520447 - Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering - 5 Deliver Design\504 GIS\Ernslaw\ArcGIS Ernslaw\ArcGIS Ernslaw.aprx



Scale 1:20,000 @ A3  
0 100 200 300 400 500 m

Project Number: 520447  
Projection: NZTM

## NEW ZEALAND WINDFARMS LIMITED Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Aokautere Extension

FIGURE KK-0502: Location and Site Area