

Local authority providing comment	Horizons Regional Council
Contact person (if follow-up is required)	Greg Bevin – Regulatory Manager (s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED])
	Jasmine Mitchell – Team Leader Consents s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
	Click or tap here to enter text.

Comment form

Please use the table below to comment on the application.

Project name	Te Rere Hau Windfarm Aokautere Extension
General comment – potential benefits	Like any development there will be an element of economic benefit associated with the project including the creation of jobs whilst the project is being proceeded with.
General comment – significant issues	Actual and potential impacts on wetlands, indigenous vegetation, avifauna and herpetofauna (e.g. lizards) and effects on freshwater habitat and species via the installation of structures such as culverts and the discharge of sediment associated with land disturbance activities.
Is Fast-track appropriate?	Horizons view on this matter is neutral. We can see the benefit of aligning this project with the Te Rere Hau repowering project (which is currently being processed via the Fast Track legislation), however, we are also conscious the scale of this project is such that it could be processed via a normal council process.
Environmental compliance history	Regarding matters that fall under Horizons jurisdiction NZ Windfarms have a good compliance history with no enforcement action being taken in relation to its operation in the Horizons region.
Reports and assessments normally required	<p>The application would normally be accompanied by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a detailed planning assessment against the relevant regional and national planning documents (e.g. NESFW, NPSFW etc); - a Cultural Impact Assessment; - a comprehensive AEE that would include the provision of management plans, including comprehensive Erosion and Sediment Control Plan(s), Biodiversity and terrestrial ecology Management Plan(s), Avifauna Management Plan, Cleanfill Management Plan, Dust Management Plan, Stormwater management plan and Aquatic Management Plan. <p>There would need to be a detailed assessment of the streams and wetlands that are to be or are likely to be impacted by the proposal. This assessment would need to consider the effects against the management hierarchy in the Regional Plan and</p>

	<p>NPSFW. In the event compensation or offsetting is proposed the application would need to demonstrate how this has been modelled and calculated.</p> <p>There does not appear to be an assessment in relation to effects on freshwater ecology as a result of potential discharges of sediment from the proposed project. This would need to be addressed in the application.</p> <p>The application will need to contain a detailed Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. Given the scale and scope of the project having a detailed ESCP provided as part of the application would not be considered unreasonable. The ESCP should be prepared by a person suitably qualified and experienced in erosion and sediment control and be prepared in accordance with the document titled Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Land Disturbing Activities in the Auckland Region, dated June 2016 (see https://content.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/regulations/technical-guidance/Documents/GD05%20Erosion%20and%20Sediment%20Control.pdf)</p> <p>The application should also have regard to the Rangitane o Manawatū Statutory Acknowledgement. See https://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Iwi%20and%20Hapu/Rangitane-o-Manawatu-Statutory-Acknowledgements.pdf</p> <p>The application should have a documented archaeological and accidental discovery protocol/management plan.</p> <p>Draft resource consent conditions should be included in any application.</p>
Iwi and iwi authorities	<p>Rangitāne o Manawatū</p> <p>Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui a Rua</p> <p>Ngāti Ruakawa ki te Tonga</p> <p>Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui-a-Rua</p> <p>Ngāti Toa Rangatira</p>
Relationship agreements under the RMA	NA
Insert responses to other specific requests in the Minister's	NA

letter (if applicable)	
Other considerations	Click or tap here to insert any other responses you consider relevant for the Minister to be aware of.

Comments on applications for referral under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

This form is for local authorities to provide comments to the Minister for the Environment on an application to refer a project to an expert consenting panel under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.

Local authority providing comment	Palmerston North City Council ("PNCC")
Contact person (if follow-up is required)	Jeff Baker, Planning Services Manager s 9(2)(a)

Comment form

Please use the table below to comment on the application.

Project name	Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Aokautere Extension ("the Project ")
General comment – potential benefits	PNCC considers there will be benefits associated with the Project, for example the creation of additional jobs whilst the Project is undertaken. However, the local benefits will be additional to the primary benefits provided by the related Te Rere Wind Farm Repowering Project, which is currently subject to the fast-track consenting process ("the Repowering Project ").
General comment – significant issues	<p>The Project could present issues on the following, and PNCC which will require consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acoustic impact on the local community (positive or negative); • The effects of on the transportation network; • The visual and landscape impact. <p>Such effects are being considered in the context of the related Repowering Project.</p>
Is Fast-track appropriate?	<p>PNCC acknowledges the relationship of this Project with the Repowering Project, which has been accepted for the Fast Track process with PNCC's support. While we do not hold a strong view in relation to the extension, on balance, PNCC considers that the standard RMA process would be appropriate.</p> <p>PNCC is of the view the Project is of a nature and scale that it would be able to be processed capably by PNCC. PNCC has the advantage of having already engaged multiple experts to review the extensive material provided for the current Repowering Project, having provided detail review and comments. PNCC notes that the outcome of the current project including any imposed conditions of consent would be highly informative in terms of this proposal, noting the obvious relationships between the project.</p> <p>Accordingly, PNCC consider that it has both the resources and the expertise to process the application competently and efficiently in a way that best balances the needs of the applicant and the affected community.</p> <p>Additionally, PNCC would like to highlight the non-recoverable expenditure that it already incurred while engaging in the related Repowering Project. In circumstances where the project is of a type that PNCC can process efficiently using the standard RMA process, PNCC would prefer</p>

	<p>its involvement to be on a cost-recoverable (no cost to the ratepayer) basis as intended by the RMA.</p> <p>In summary, PNCC takes a moderate position that the extension can be processed through the usual RMA process and offers that view for consideration.</p>
Environmental compliance history	<p>The following comments are repeated from feedback provided on the Repowering Project.</p> <p>The existing Te Rere Hau Wind Farm resource consents have been subject to regulatory compliance concerns since the granting of consents from PNCC on 30 May 2005. Following numerous complaints from affected residents as to the noise levels, the Environment Court considered whether the relevant noise conditions were being performed. Further appeals to the High Court and Court of Appeal (culminating in Palmerston North City Council v New Zealand Windfarms Ltd [2014] NZCA 601) resulted in the decision that conditions were not being breached.</p> <p>Following these proceedings, PNCC initiated a review of conditions of consent in 2017 focusing on the noise conditions, with amendments made as a result. PNCC since this review have received fewer complaints between 2018-2022 regarding wind farm noise.</p>
Reports and assessments normally required	<p>PNCC expect the following reports will be required for the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed assessment of environment effects that includes consideration of all relevant provisions in the District Plan, Regional Plan, Regional Policy Statement, and all relevant national policy statements and environmental standards; • A traffic impact assessment; • A landscape and visual impact assessment; • A noise impact assessment; • A geotechnical assessment; • A cultural impact assessment. <p>A draft condition set for the Project should ideally be provided in any application.</p> <p>The Project application should also have regard to the Rangitāne o Manawātū Statutory Acknowledgement which can be accessed here: https://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Iwi%20and%20Hapu/Rangitane-o-Manawatu-Statutory-Acknowledgements.pdf</p> <p>Additionally, reports and assessments will be required to address Horizons Regional Council matters.</p>
Iwi and iwi authorities	<p>PNCC engages with the following as iwi authorities for RMA purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangitāne o Manawātū
Relationship agreements under the RMA	<p>Click or tap here to summarise any JMAs, Mana Whakahono a Rohe, transfers of power, MOUs, accords or other relationship agreements under the RMA. Include the parties involved.</p>
Insert responses to other specific requests in the Minister's letter (if applicable)	<p>The specific questions outlined in the invitation to PNCC have been addressed in the above comments.</p>
Other considerations	<p>Click or tap here to insert any other responses you consider relevant for the Minister to be aware of.</p>

Note: All comments, including your name and contact details, will be made available to the public and the applicant either in response to an Official Information Act request or as part of the Ministry's proactive release of information. Please advise if you object to the release of any information contained in your comments, including your name and contact details. You have the right to request access to or to correct any personal information you supply to the Ministry.



Template for written comments from other parties

Comments on applications for referral under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

This form is for persons requested by the Minister for the Environment to provide comments on an application to refer a project to an expert consenting panel under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.

Organisation providing comment	Transpower New Zealand Limited
Contact person (if follow-up is required)	Jo Mooar
	Senior Corporate Counsel
	s 9(2)(a)

Comment form

Please use the table below to comment on the application.

Project name	Te Rere Hau Wind Farm: Aokautere Extension Project (Project)
General comment	<p>Transpower has been identified as an “other person” for the purpose of section 21(3) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 (Act). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about the Project, and its potential impact on National Grid assets.</p> <p>Transpower supports the application as it “contribut[es] to New Zealand’s efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low emissions economy (in terms of reducing New Zealand’s net emissions of greenhouse gases)” (section 19(d)(vii) of the Act).</p> <p>Transpower is not aware of any reason for the application for referral to be declined. In this regard, we do not consider the Project to be inconsistent with Policy 10 (in particular) of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission (section 23(5)(c) of the Act).</p> <p>The applicant proposes to connect the generation to the Grid at Transpower’s existing Bunnythorpe-Wilton A line, via one of 4 options.</p> <p>Transpower has had some discussions with the applicant about the connection to the Grid. Transpower operates a Queue Management Framework for managing investigations into generation connections. This Project is near the front of the queue, and an investigation will likely start in a couple of months. Once this investigation is complete, we would understand how the</p>

	connection to the Grid would occur, the extent of works required, and any ancillary works (such as access tracks to any new structures) that would need to occur to connect to the Grid.
Other considerations	N/A
[Insert specific requests for comment]	N/A

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