



BRF-1071

26 January 2021

Ministers of/for:

Infrastructure; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Education; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Land Information; Defence; Transport; 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 Repowering and Selfs Road, Papatoetoe

I have received applications to refer two projects to an expert consenting panel (a 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 are described in Attachment A, and copies of the applications are electronically attached.

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 assessment 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



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Attachments:

- A. Description of proposed projects
- B. Application to refer Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information
- C. Application to refer Selfs Road project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

Attachment A - Proposed projects

Project	Applicant	Details
Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering	NZ Windfarms Limited	The project will expand the overall footprint of the existing windfarm, remove 97 existing two-blade turbines 47 metres high and install 30 new three-blade turbines which are 162 metres high. This represents a 70% (approximately) reduction in the total number of turbines and an increase of approximately 245% in turbine height at the wind farm. The project scope includes options to uprate the existing transmission line connecting the wind farm to the national grid, or to install a new overhead transmission line. Activities will include vegetation removal, earthworks, removal of existing turbines, constructing new turbines including foundations and building pads, upgrading existing roads, constructing new roads and culverts, constructing new infrastructure including hardstand areas, underground electrical and communication cables, substation and grid connection equipment, and discharge of stormwater and contaminants.
Selfs Road	Acanthus Limited	The project is to subdivide 3.64-hectare site and construct approximately 115 single-level residential units, along with roads and three waters services. The project will involve activities such as • demolition of existing buildings • vegetation clearance • earthworks (including disturbing contaminated land) • subdivision • constructing residential units • constructing roads and three waters services • landscaping including planting.