



BRF-1071

26 January 2021

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Energy and Resources
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Hon Dr Megan Woods

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering project

I have received an application to refer a project 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 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 a link to the application documents is in the covering email.

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If I accept the application and the project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to apply via the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA). A more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessment(s) will be required as part of this process. You will have an opportunity to provide comments to the panel established to consider and decide these RMA approvals.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish me to take them into consideration when making my decision on whether or not to accept the referral application.

Yours sincerely

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix A - Proposed project

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.