

BRF-1071

26 January 2022

Alison Andrew
Chief Executive
Transpower NZ Limited
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Alison Andrew

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

The Minister for the Environment (the Minister) has received an application from NZ Windfarms Limited to refer the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering project to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (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 provided in the covering email.

You may have an interest in the project because the project includes connection to the national power grid. Under delegated authority from the Minister and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. A template is attached for this purpose.

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 are referred to a panel the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant must provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of this process.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days to ensure that the Minister takes your comments into consideration when deciding whether or not to accept the

referral application. Note that the Minister is not required to consider any comments provided after this time.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or to discuss the application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's Fast-track Consenting Team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Frame
Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team

Enclosures:

- A. Details of proposed project
- B. Application to refer the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information
- C. Response template for written comments

Cc Joanne Mooar, Senior Corporate Counsel

Transpower – s 9(2)(a)

Jenna McFarlane, Transpower – s 9(2)(a)

Neil Bromley, Transpower – s 9(2)(a)

Attachment A – Details of proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering	NZ Windfarms Limited	The project is to redesign and upgrade the existing Te Rere Hau wind farm to increase operational efficiency and output of renewable electricity supplied to the national grid. 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 upgrade the existing underground 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.