



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022

Portfolio Environment

On 19 April 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment has decided under section 24 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 to accept the application for referral of NZ Windfarms Limited's Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering project to a panel;
- 2 **noted** that the project meets the eligibility criteria in section 18(3) of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and will help achieve the Act's purpose, as required by section 18(2) of the Act, by:
 - 2.1 generating employment by providing approximately 197 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over a 3-year construction period, and 40 direct ongoing FTE jobs once construction is complete;
 - 2.2 providing infrastructure to improve economic, employment and environmental outcomes;
 - 2.3 contributing to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and transition more quickly to a low greenhouse-gas-emissions economy by increasing New Zealand's total amount of renewable energy generation;
 - 2.4 progress faster using the Act's processes than would otherwise be the case under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes;
- 3 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022 requires NZ Windfarms Limited to provide to an expert consenting panel a landscape and visual assessment, options to mitigate effects on the local housing market, a detailed ecological assessment, an acoustic assessment and an integrated transport assessment, as detailed in Appendix three, attached to the submission under CAB-22-SUB-0137;
- 4 **noted** that the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022 requires an expert consenting panel appointed to consider the project to seek comments from the Minister for Energy and Resources, Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata and Transpower New Zealand Limited as listed in Appendix three;

- 5 **authorised** submission of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022 to the Executive Council [PCO 24693/2.0];
- 6 **noted** that in July 2020, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee agreed to waive the standard 28-day rule relating to Orders in Council made under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 [ENV-20-MIN-0033];
- 7 **noted** that, as a result of the decision in paragraph 6, the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022 will come into force the day after publication in the New Zealand Gazette.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

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