

PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143 Website: www.mfe.govt.nz Freephone: 0800 499 700

9 March 2023

LET Capital Number 3 Limited Partnership c/- Jennifer Valentine 4Sight Consulting Limited s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jennifer Valentine

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – request for further information – Waiuku Wind Farm Project

Thank you for LET Capital Number 3 Limited Partnership's application to refer the Waiuku Wind Farm Project (project) to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

Under delegated authority from the Minister for the Environment (the Minister), I am writing to request the following further information under section 22 of the FTCA:

- A copy of the legal agreements for all properties within the project site to confirm the
 applicant's rights to access land and undertake the project, and to confirm that none of
 the conditions of those agreements will prevent, limit or delay project delivery.
 Alternatively, you can provide written evidence that the current owners agree to the
 project proceeding.
- Provide a copy of the economic impact assessment prepared by M.E referred to in the application. Ensure the figures in the assessment reflect full time equivalent (FTE) jobs estimated to be generated by the project in direct FTE jobs per year, rather than job years or combined direct and indirect FTE totals.
- 3. Provide a shapefile/s or a KML file to clearly define the project area/scope.
- 4. Confirm the expected wind farm output expressed in terms of Megawatt-peak (MWp).
- 5. The application states two options for connection to the national grid. Provide the following to confirm the scope and timing of the project:
 - a. confirmation of which connection option will form part of this project



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- b. if the connection option is to upgrade existing Counties Energy infrastructure, provide:
 - i. details of agreements made with Counties Energy with regard to approval for locating the new line on their infrastructure
 - ii. whether obtaining the above approval will impact your anticipated project timeframes
 - iii. whether separate approval required from Counties Energy may prevent, limit or delay project delivery (and to what extent)
 - iv. whether separate approvals will be required from private landowners who own land over which the existing Counties Energy infrastructure extends.
- c. if the connection option is to establish a new 110kV line within the legal road reserve provide:
 - details of agreements made with Waikato District Council with regard to approval for the works within or under, or accessways across, the legal road reserve
 - ii. whether obtaining the above approval will impact your anticipated project timeframes
 - iii. whether separate approval required from Waikato District Council may prevent, limit or delay project delivery (and to what extent)
 - iv. whether separate approvals will be required from private landowners.
- 6. The application provides limited details and no evidence on funding. For the Minister to accept a project for referral he must be satisfied that it can urgently promote employment, and therefore needs to be confident that the applicant can deliver the project in a timely manner. Provide the following information to assist with this:
 - a. further details on how the project will be funded, including whether any funding will be provided by third parties
 - b. information on the financial ability of those persons/entities who are providing funding to deliver the project, and/or their track record of delivering projects of a similar scale
 - c. if any funding is to be provided by third parties, details of any impacts on project timing or delivery
- 7. Provide additional information to confirm certainty of timing and delivery of the project, including a project timeline outlining key milestones. The timeline must include time associated with:
 - a. investigations and other work required to refine the locations of the proposed Environmental Buffer Zone and turbines
 - b. negotiations and detailed design phase with preferred turbine supplier



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- c. additional approvals required prior to commencing construction
- d. physical construction necessary prior to commencing the project i.e. bridge upgrades

Please provide the required information via return email within 10 working days so that the Minister can take it into account when deciding whether to accept the referral application.

Please note the Minister is not required to consider information provided after this time but he may do so at his discretion. To ensure there is sufficient time for the application to be considered through the referral process before the FTCA is repealed, it is suggested you compile the requested information in full as soon as possible. Please email responses to fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine Berry

Acting Manager, Fast-track Consenting Team