

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



BRF-3038

Ministers of/for:

Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; Housing; Infrastructure; Energy and Resources; Education; Transport; Agriculture; Land Information; Defence; Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations; Local Government; Conservation; and Climate Change;

Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ministers

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Waiuku Wind Farm Project

LET Capital Number 3 Limited Partnership has applied to refer the Waiuku Wind Farm Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (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 project is described in Appendix A, and the application documents are in Attachment 1.

I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. If I accept the application and the project is referred, the applicant will be able to lodge application with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the project, and panel will be appointed to consider and decide them. The applicant must provide a more detailed environmental assessment and cultural impact assessments as part of their RMA application. You will have an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to the panel.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

- A. Description of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer Waiuku Wind Farm Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)

Attachment A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Waiuku Wind Farm Project	LET Capital Number 3 Limited Partnership	<p>The project is to construct and operate a wind farm on an approximately 560-hectare site, comprising multiple properties at 66 Huarau Way, 44 and 76 Robertson Road, 136, 191 and 260 Thomson Road, and 612 Forestry Road, Otaua, Waikato, and to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid. The wind farm will have an approximate installed capacity of 80 peak Megawatts and will comprise up to 18 wind turbines with blade tip heights up to 190 metres high. The project includes the construction of infrastructure and supporting structures including internal roads, turbine platforms, foundation and crane pads, underground electrical and fibre optic cables, two wind monitoring masts up to 100 metres high, a central collector station building and ancillary buildings.</p> <p>The project includes two options to connect to and supply electricity to the national grid, with the transmission lines extending north into the Auckland Region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Option A involves the construction of a new 33kV transmission line extending from the proposed wind farm to an existing 33kV Counties Energy Limited (Counties Energy) transmission line south of Otaua. Upgrades would also be required to the existing 33kV transmission line along the route to the Waiuku substation and then on to the Glenbrook substation. b. Option B involves the construction of a new 33kV transmission line, with two route options, extending from the proposed wind farm to the Waiuku substation and either a new 33kV transmission line, or upgrading to the existing 33kV Counties Energy transmission line, between Waiuku and Glenbrook substations. <p>Both connection options involve works on private land and within road reserve.</p> <p>The project will require land use consents under the operative Waikato District Plan (OWDP) and the proposed Waikato District Plan (PWDP), water and discharge permits under the Waikato Regional Plan, and resource consents under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011 (NES-CS) and the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-F). The applicant has not identified any resource consent requirements under the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP).</p>

