



18 April 2024

Far North Solar Farms Limited  
C/- Williamson Water and Land Advisory Limited  
L Alkamil  
PO Box 314  
Kumeu 0841

Dear Laila,

## Resource consent application – Further information request

**Consent Number:** RC240028  
**Applicant:** Far North Solar Farms Limited  
**Site Address:** 380 Waipara Flat Road, Waipara  
**Proposed activity:** To establish and operate a solar farm

Having reviewed the application and the information provided, the Council requires the following additional information to be supplied pursuant to section 92 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) in order to better understand your proposal, including its effects on the environment and the ways any adverse effects might be mitigated.

### General requests

- Page 14 of the AEE refers to Appendix C for full drawings of the proposed solar panels and inverters. The Appendix C provided with the application documents only includes an Environment Canterbury Form 8A with written approval from the property owner.  
Please provide the solar panel and inverter drawings referred to in the AEE.
- Page 43 of the AEE refers to consultation with adjoining landowners and neighbours, referring to Appendix L for further information. Appendix L provides information on the consultation undertaken with Ngai Tūāhuriri Rūnanga only. It does not provide any information on the consultation undertaken with the adjoining landowners and neighbours.  
Please provide information outlining the consultation undertaken with adjoining landowners and neighbours.
- Page 40 of AEE refers to the incorrect iwi management plans.  
Please provide an assessment of the proposal against the relevant iwi management plan – Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan.
- Page 15 of the AEE states construction activities will take place over a 12 month period with the construction and primary electrical works being carried out over the first few months of construction. It would be useful to have a timeline which includes the carrying out of the landscape plantings and screening, fencing, internal road development, installation and operation of the solar panels and inverters to fully understand the construction phase of the proposal.

Please provide a construction timeline of the proposed development including the sequencing of the activities.

### **National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL)**

- Page 33 of the AEE considers clause 3.9(2)(j)(i) of the NPS-HPL applicable to the proposal. Late last year the Ministry for the Environment consulted on two potential changes to the NPS-HPL. One of these was the lack of clear consent pathway for the construction of new specified infrastructure on highly productive land, such as solar farms, where it was not a requiring authority. My understanding is this indicates there is not currently a clear consenting pathway under the NPS-HPL for solar farms on highly productive land.
- Additionally, if a pathway through clause 3.9(2) can be identified, no assessment under 3.9(3) has been provided on how the proposed solar farm will minimize or mitigate any actual or potential cumulative loss of the availability and productive capacity of highly productive land in the district.

Further information is required to justify how the proposal passes the tests in the NPS-HPL.

### **Glint and glare assessment (Appendix K)**

- Please confirm what rest angles are intended to be used to address glint and glare from the solar panels.
- Page 15 of the report outlines the 'model components'. When describing the model vegetation used, it is unclear what height vegetation was used where. Do the heights used in the model properly correspond with the proposed planting maintenance height?

Please provide sufficient detail to confirm.

- Will the panels be in place and in operation prior to the vegetation screening having reached the proposed maintenance height for screening? If so, what are the glint and glare effects prior to these plantings reaching the proposed maintenance height for screening?

### **Landscape and visual assessment (Appendix D)**

- Please provide a scaleable landscape plan (i.e. the detail can be zoomed in on and remain clear).
- Page 26 of the AEE references an 'ALE planting plan'. I have not identified this within the application documents. Please provide a copy.
- If not included in the 'ALE planting plan' please confirm the planting heights and final maintenance heights of the proposed screening plantings, how long it is anticipated for the plantings to reach the maintenance heights and how the screenings will be maintained.
- Please confirm whether the height of the deer fence is 1.8 m or 2 m and whether the 3 strands of barbed wire are included in that height or in addition. Will barbed wire deer fence be on the outside of the screening planting or on the inside? The barbed wire deer fence does not appear to be shown in the visual simulations of the proposal.

### **Engagement with other entities**

- Has any conversation been had with Transpower regarding capacity of the substation to accept the power generated by the solar farm? Please provide any outcomes of discussion.
- Boundary screening plantings are proposed under the MainPower and Transpower lines. Please confirm whether the proposed maintained height of the screening plantings are able to be accommodated under these lines.

- Has any correspondence been had with FENZ regarding fire safety and firefighting provision? Please provide any outcomes of discussion.
- Has any correspondence been had with NZTA given the site adjoins State Highway 7? Please provide any outcomes of discussion.

The processing of your application has therefore been put on hold from **18 April 2024**.

**Responding to this request:**

Within 15 working days from the receipt of this letter you must either:

- provide the requested information; or
- provide written confirmation that you cannot provide the requested information within the timeframe, but do intend to provide it; or
- provide written confirmation that you do not agree to provide the requested information.

If you cannot provide the requested information within this time frame, but do intend to provide it, then please provide:

- written confirmation that you can provide it;
- the likely date that you will be able to provide it by; and
- any constraints that you may have on not being able to provide it within the set time frame.

The Council will then set a revised time frame for the information to be provided.

**Restarting the processing of your application:**

The processing of your application will restart:

- when all of the above requested information is received (if received within 15 working days from the date of this letter); or
- from the revised date for the requested information to be provided, if you have provided written confirmation that you are unable; or
- from the date that you have provided written confirmation that you do not agree to providing the requested information; or
- 15 working days from the date of this letter (if you have not provided the requested information or written confirmation).

**Once the processing of the application restarts:**

If you have not provided the requested information, then your application will continue to be processed and determined on the basis of the information that you have provided with the application. The Council may decline the application on the basis of insufficient information.

If you have provided all the requested information, then we will consider its adequacy and make a decision on whether your application requires notification or limited notification, or, whether any parties are considered adversely affected from whom you will need to obtain written approval in order for the proposal to be considered on a non-notified basis.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above request or the further processing of the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Kirby', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nicola Kirby  
Team Leader Planning

Mobile [027 4699095](tel:0274699095)

Email [nicola.kirby@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.kirby@hurunui.govt.nz)