

# Pre-Application Advice for Lodestone Energy Limited – RMA251941

**Disclaimer:** This technical advice note does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. Please note this preliminary advice has been given prior to any official guidance from the Ministry for the Environment relating to ECan’s role under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024.

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	17 April 2025
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## Executive Summary

Lodestone Energy Limited (Lodestone) (the applicant) have sought a meeting with ECan to discuss using the Fast-Track Approval Act (FTAA) for the Haldon Solar Project in the Mackenzie Basin. The project is listed in Schedule 2 of the FTAA,

ECan Staff – David Sluter and Nardia Feehan (Consent Planning),  
Lodestone – Brad Henderson (Lodestone) and Ethan Glover (Mitchell Daysh)

## Introduction

### Fast-Track Act Consenting:

Under the Act, the applicant is required under section 11(1)(a) to consult with relevant local authorities. Lodestone will need to provide evidence of this consultation as part of their application.

This pre-application meeting forms part of this consultation and discusses the process going forward for any potential applications by Lodestone under the FTAA.

### Haldon Solar Project:

The applicant requested a pre-app meeting to discuss the proposed Fast-Track application. Specifically, the applicant sought advice relating to:

#### Land use consent

- For earthworks to construct roads, cables and substations within one metre of groundwater

#### Discharge permit

- To discharge both construction phase and operational stormwater

#### Air discharges

- Requirements for management plan in order to meet the permitted activity standards

NES/ Regs

- Authorisation would be required under the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities (noting that authorisation under the NES-ET is not required from ECan).

Minutes – Notes – Advice

- Lodestone have been in the process of carrying out necessary investigations and assessments for the past 18 months for the Haldon Solar Project
- Discussion about consents that would be required. Project unlikely to be within one metre of groundwater but Lodestone will take a precautionary approach and apply for land use consent for earthworks.
- The site shall include 48 mini power stations and the potential for future battery storage.
- Not proposing an air discharge so not planning on submitting an assessment with application. Will leave it for contractor to address in a management plan in accordance with permitted activity rule 7.32 of the Regional Air Plan.
- Lodestone will share draft conditions for ECan to comment on. Those conditions will include requirements for management plans.
- Ecan to write up minutes from Lodestone to use in application to show consultation.
- Consultation with Runanga has been undertaken.
- Internal technical advice will likely be sought to review the stormwater aspects of the proposal.
- No known risk of erosion from stormwater at this site or other solar farm sites.
- Setbacks are 200 metres from Lake Benmore and 300 metres from the road.
- Proposal to include rabbit proof fencing at the landowners request and there's potential lichen species present.
- Native birds observed flying over the site although studies suggest these species are unlikely to be affected.
- No loss of productivity at site as pasture doesn't really grow currently.
- Currently the project has a 35 year lease agreement. The options then will be to extend or decommission the site.
- The main transmission line goes straight over the site so it will be possible to connect straight to it.
- Flood mapping has been undertaken and will be included in the proposal.
- Lodestone own other solar farms in the North Island and has the rights to develop three solar farms in Canterbury.

**ACTION** – Ecan to write up minutes and send through to Lodestone for application.

**ACTION** – Applicant to send through draft conditions and any other information including rule assessments for ECan to comment on.

#### Additional Information

Charging: Work will be charged to existing Pre-App code for the Haldon Solar Project.

Process: Lodestone to lodge substantive FTAA application with EPA and keep communication with ECan.

Communication (going forward): Email between David, Nardia, Brad and Ethan.

Timelines for pre/ referral and substantive notification: Ecan to get minutes out asap for Lodestone to lodge end of the month.

#### Next Steps:

ECan will write up meeting minutes and send through.

Applicant to send through information for ECan to comment on.

#### Signed by



Nardia Feehan  
Principal Consent Planner



David Sluter  
Senior Consents Planner Project Management Officer