

File ref: FTAA-2509-1100

17 March 2026

Far North Solar Farm Limited
C/- Richard Homewood
By Email: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe

Request for information from Far North Solar Farm Limited in relation to the Point Solar Farm application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

The Point Solar Farm Expert Panel (the Panel) has directed the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to request further information from you under section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), relating to the Point Solar Farm application.

At the direction of the Panel, the EPA is seeking further information from Far North Solar Farm Limited regarding **the following**:

1) Economic Evidence

The Panel in their RFI #3 issued on Thursday 23 February 2026 asked whether the applicant intended to adduce economic and/or avifauna evidence, and if so, when.

The applicant responded by letter on Friday 27 February 2026 that it intended to adduce a “third-party review of the economic evidence already provided” by Friday 13 March 2026.

The Panel records that no economic evidence had “already been provided”, although there were assertions as to economic matters in the substantive application. This economic evidence is seen by the Panel as a central aspect of the application. For an example of this type of technical evidence, see the draft decision of the Southland Wind Farm Expert Panel [FTAA-2508-1095] at paragraphs [820]-[864].

No economic evidence was provided on Friday 13 March 2026. By a letter of Monday 16 March 2026, the applicant advised the Panel that “the third-party economic review is underway and is expected to be completed ahead of the 25 March RFI 5 deadline.”

Two matters arise. First, the Panel is expecting expert economic evidence justifying the claim that there are regional and national economic benefits arising from the project. Second, the deadline was not Wednesday 25 March 2026; the applicant intended to provide the evidence by Friday 13 March 2026. It did not do so. The delay is of concern given the deadline for the production of a draft decision, but the Panel with some reluctance is prepared to provide more time.

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Fast-track is administered by the Environmental Protection Authority
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The Panel requests the following information:

- a) Evidence from an expert economist justifying the applicant's claim to regional and national benefits arising from the project.

Please provide the requested information to the EPA by **5pm Wednesday 25 March 2026**. If the information is not received by this date, the Panel will proceed on the basis that the request for further information has been declined.

2) Expert Qualifications

For the Panel to decide on what weight to give each piece of evidence provided when assessing the application, it is important for the Panel to understand the qualifications and experience of each expert.

The Panel requests the following information:

- a) All third parties who have provided material on the application are requested, if they have not already done so, to provide their qualifications and experience and confirm that they adhere to the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023 when preparing management plans, surveys, memoranda, or reports.
- b) In addition, the project's current lead ecologist, Dr Nick Goldwater, is requested to advise whether or not he adopts the assessment of ecological effects provided in the substantive application. If he does not, he is to identify what parts he does not adopt.

Please provide the requested information to the EPA by **5pm Friday 20 March 2026**. If the information is not received by this date, the Panel will proceed on the basis that the request for further information has been declined.

Supply of Information

In accordance with section 67(2) of the Act Far North Solar Farm Limited must:

- a) Provide electronic copies of the information or report requested; or
- b) Advise the EPA, with reasons that you decline to provide the information or report requested.

Please note, the information will be provided to the Panel, the applicant and every person who provided comments on the application. The information will also be made available on the Fast-track website.

If you have any questions, please contact Application Lead, [REDACTED] by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Application Lead, Fast-track Applications