



PS-COR1800

29 January 2026

The Expert Panel
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
C/O Environmental Protection Authority
Level 10, 215 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6011

RE: FTAA-2508-1097 – Haldon Solar invitation to the Minister for the Environment to comment

To the Panel,

I am writing in response to your invitation under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) to provide comments on the Haldon Solar substantive application that is currently under consideration.

As the Minister for the Environment, I have statutory functions and responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ), the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 as well as the Environment Act 1986.

As part of its decision making, the Panel needs to consider how and to what extent the adverse impacts of the proposal can be managed. The potential adverse effects on biodiversity may be manageable through the setting of conditions. It will be up to you to determine how the environmental effects such as those arising because of the proposed activities will be managed.

While the indigenous biodiversity values of the site are degraded, I note that they are also rare and critically endangered in some instances. As such the remaining remnants are significant. Given the scale of the development and uncertainty about the effects of this type of development in this ecosystem and locality, I suggest that you consider strengthening some of the conditions to ensure that robust monitoring is undertaken and that if declining values are later discovered there is a rapid and proportional response.

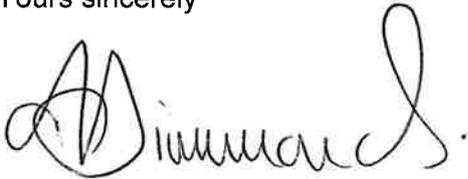
For example, I suggest that:

- a. monitoring conditions make specific reference to indigenous vegetation and require development and implementation of a vegetation management plan by a suitably qualified ecologist if indigenous species are declining or exotic species are proliferating.
- b. the conditions require a pest management strategy be developed and implemented.

- c. the condition requiring an Avifauna Monitoring Plan be amended to require regular reporting and the development of an avifauna management plan if the effects on indigenous bird species are found to be more than minor.
- d. a condition requiring a protocol if herpetofauna are discovered or disturbed during construction or maintenance be included noting that, while lizards were not discovered during the initial survey, they may later be attracted to the site.
- e. a condition requiring that if Threatened or At-Risk indigenous invertebrate are later discovered on the site a monitoring plan is developed by a suitably qualified ecologist and if, as a result of monitoring, the population is found to be declining, a management plan is developed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Simmonds', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment