

Your Comment on the Foxton Solar Farm draft conditions

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email to substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)			
First name	Lewis		
Last name	Shailer		
Postal address			
Home phone / Mobile phone		Work phone	
Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)			

Please provide your comments below, include additional pages as needed.

It is with much frustration and disappointment that I read the draft decision from the expert panel regarding the Foxton Solar Farm Project. I feel unheard and insignificant.

Part of my original comment was to point out that SLR had understated the height of our proposed home building site at [REDACTED]. They refer to it as 3 to 4m high on page 28 of Appendix-H1 and they base their assessments on that. I raised the issue in "Other Matters" in my original "comment submission" and I see the expert panel have chosen to ignore that and still refer to the building site (para 179) as "partly elevated".

Laser measuring equipment has been used to confirm the building site is 5.5m above the section boundary to the North. That level at the northern boundary of [REDACTED] is the same level as the boundary with the solar farm to the northeast of the building site. The northeast being the main view across the 35ha block. If you were to take a 5.5m starting point, add 3m to the first floor and then 1.7m to my eye line and my view is 10.2m above the boundary of the solar farm to the northeast.

I am sure beyond any doubt that my view of the solar panels across the 35ha and all the way to the substation will never be blocked in the proposed 35-year time frame. This is a very high wind site that makes the establishment of trees difficult.

This was an opportunity for Genessis to step up and show they could be a good citizen and failing that, then an opportunity for the expert panel to put it right.

I feel the expert panel has failed us and other neighbours at the Motuiti Road end of the proposed development by accepting Genesis arguments to be valid. There is no way that a reduction of 7.2% of the panels will affect the viability of this project. The vast majority of existing and planned solar farms in New Zealand are on a much smaller scale than this, and for Genesis to say the substation would be too big is nonsense. The substation will be built to cope with the final tally of generation output.

For the expert panel to determine that a reduction of 7.2% would be (para 186) “an unduly onerous response to short-term visual amenity effects” is a fail for our community and shows a total lack of understanding of the site. All modeled pictures pages 41-56 of Appendix H3 look great but that is not realistic. Hedge rows will take 20 years to get to half of that presented in the Appendix H3. This is not short term.

If this project is set to progress unaltered this close to our boundary it does raise the issue of detrimental effects on our water supply bore at [REDACTED]. If vibration from construction works collapses our bore, will Genessis replace it? Will there be compensation? Will there be water supplied by tanker to avoid animal welfare issues while a replacement is being attended to? There doesn't seem to be any mention of this in the draft conditions.

I invited the expert panel to my property to get a better understanding of the issues. That was neither acknowledged nor addressed.

I suggested compensation for losses in property values. That was neither acknowledged nor addressed.

I suggested removal of the 35ha block containing a mere 7.2% of the panels and that has been rejected on questionable grounds.

No hearing – I was looking forward to the opportunity to discuss these matters in person with the expert panel and now find that opportunity has been taken away.

I am so disappointed with this process. We think we live in a society based on rules to protect each other's rights and wellbeing and then big business stamps all over us, facilitated by you, the expert panel. You can do better. It's not too late to do better.

Thank you