



Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

1 April 2025

Fast-track Team
Environmental Protection Agency

Via email: contact@fasttrack.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Referral application for the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 - information from Te Ao Marama Inc and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

I am writing on behalf of Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnanga o Awarua, Hokonui Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima (collectively referred to as **Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku**) and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (**Te Rūnanga**).

I understand that Contact Energy Limited (**Contact**) has filed, or will shortly file, a referral application for the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku are mana whenua of the takiwa where the project will be located.

The Environmental Protection Authority (**EPA**) will be aware, via the previous fast-track consenting process for the project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, that Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga have been engaging extensively with Contact on the Southland Wind Farm for some time. That engagement has resulted in agreement between Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga and Contact, both in relation to consent conditions for the project, and (via a confidential agreement) in relation to matters that cannot be mitigated by way of consent conditions.

We advised the EPA and expert consenting panel of that agreement by way of joint memorandum of counsel (with Contact) dated 27 November 2024. The memorandum is available here: [Applicant Memo-from-applicant-and-iwi-regarding-agreement.pdf](#)

While the previous application for resource consents for the Southland Wind Farm was declined, the position of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga in respect of the Project remains as confirmed in our agreement with Contact, and as explained in the 27 November 2024 joint memorandum.

Contact has been consulting closely with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga about the prospect of a referral application for the project being lodged under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Rūnanga support that referral application provided the referral application is on the same basis as the application made to the EPA for the Southland Wind Farm Project. We will continue to work closely with Contact throughout the Fast-track Approvals Act process.

Nuku noa nā,

Chris Ford
Group General Counsel
Te Rūnanga Group

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