

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport



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JMITC-39

Bianca Sullivan
Expert Panel Chair

By email: Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Fast-track Approvals Act substantive application – Mahinerangi Wind Farm Project FTA-120

Dear Bianca

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Tararua Wind Power Limited's (TWP) substantive application under the *Fast-track Approvals Act 2024* (FTAA 2024) for the Mahinerangi Wind Farm Project.

The FTAA 2024 has been established to provide a regime that makes it easier and quicker for regionally and nationally significant infrastructure projects to gain the approvals needed for development, in support of this Government's economic growth objectives.

TWP's proposed project is the second and final stage of the Mahinerangi Wind Farm development. Stage 1 is fully consented and was completed in 2011.

The proposal includes building 44 wind turbines (4.34 megawatts (MW) capacity each), providing an additional 190 MW of installed capacity, which is expected to generate around 549 Gigawatt-hours per year. The project also includes the installation of a new transmission line connecting a new substation to the National Grid, and a Battery Energy Storage System with capacity of 60 MW for two hours.

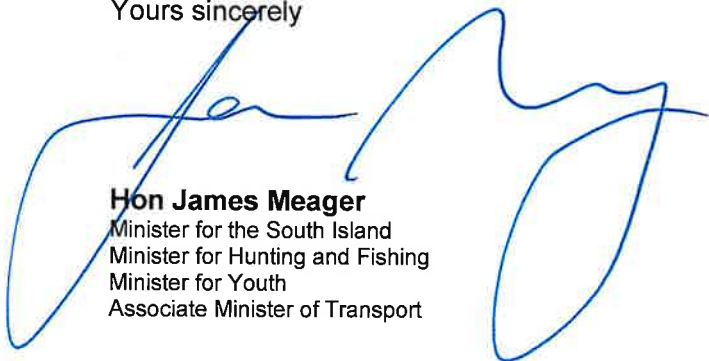
TWP has provided an economic assessment to support its application for the Mahinerangi Wind Farm Project:

- a. The construction phase is projected to directly contribute \$43.80 million to gross domestic product (GDP) and support approximately 75 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the construction sector over the three-year build period.
- b. Once operational, the development is expected to contribute \$6.90 million annually to regional GDP and sustain 8-10 direct and 4 indirect FTEs.
- c. There is around \$220.00 million expenditure during wind farm construction (in total over three years), of which approximately \$73.00 million would be economic value added to the region.

This project aligns with identified regional priorities such as resilience and sustainable economic development.

I have considered the information provided and its alignment with the priorities of my South Island portfolio. Given the projected economic benefits, including job creation and regional investment, the project is expected to deliver significant regional economic benefit.

Yours sincerely



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