

Our reference: Contact Energy FTAA
Enquiries to:

8 July 2025

Matthew Cleland – Head of Wind and Solar Contact Energy Limited PO Box 10742 Wellington 6143

Dear Matthew

Southland Wind Farm - Section 30(3) Fast Track Approvals Act (FTAA) Request

Thank you for your letter dated 2 July 2025 regarding the above matter.

We appreciate your update on the status of this project and the intended timing of the lodgement of the substantive application if the referral application is accepted.

You request that Environment Southland confirms in accordance with Section 30(3) of the FTAA by written notice that there are no existing consents to which Section 124C (1) (c) or Section 165Zl of the Resource Management Act 1991 would apply, if Contact Energy was applying for resource consents for the Southland Wind Farm Project under the standard RMA process.

I advise that a search of our records confirms that there are no such consents.

I hope this is of assistance.



Strategic Regulatory Advisor





2 July 2025

Environment Southland Private Bag 90116 Invercargill 9840



Subject: Contact Energy – Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Southland Wind Farm Application

Following our discussions at the end of March regarding our intent to lodge a referral application to seek eligibility to use the process provided for under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**), this letter officially notifies Environment Southland that, once the referral application is accepted, Contact Energy Limited (**Contact**) will be applying for all approvals necessary under the FTAA for the construction, operation and maintenance of a wind farm and associated infrastructure in Slopedown, Southland (referred to as the **Southland Wind Farm Project**).

Contact lodged its referral application with the Environmental Protection Authority (**EPA**) on 2 April 2025. Contact is expecting to receive a decision on the referral application imminently and intends to lodge its substantive application for the Project with the EPA as soon as a decision is received that confirms the referral application has been accepted, and the Project is eligible to use the FTAA process.

The Wind Farm Site is situated within the Southland District and Southland Region. In addition to the infrastructure on the Wind Farm Site, the proposed activities will include the construction of a transmission line and a Grid Injection Point within the Gore District (also in the Southland Region).

Contact has consulted with Environment Southland over the past two years regarding this Project and this has helpfully informed the Project, including the proposed consent conditions. Contact confirms the Project is essentially the same as the previous application made for the Project under the Covid-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act (2020). Contact has obtained further technical information to support the application that will be lodged under the FTAA, and this has resulted in refinements to the Project design and additional improvements to the proposed management measures.

The application will seek all necessary approvals to enable the construction and operation of the Southland Wind Farm, including all relevant approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991, Conservation Act 1987, Wildlife Act 1953, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983. The Project includes:

- The construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, and related infrastructure, including a transmission line and grid injection point that will provide a new nationally significant source of renewable electricity;
- The implementation of a comprehensive set of management measures that are required by the proposed consent conditions, which include clear objectives and hard environmental limits;
- Ongoing efforts to further avoid and minimise impacts of the Project, in particular in relation to wetlands and areas of significant indigenous vegetation or habitats for indigenous fauna; and
- A significant offsetting and compensation package that will appropriately
 address any residual ecological effects, including habitat restoration and
 enhancement measures, as well as significant predator control, both within
 the Project Site, and in the Beresford Range in the nearby Catlins Forest Park.

In accordance with section 30(3) of the FTAA, it is requested that Environment Southland confirms by written notice to Contact that there are no existing consents to which section 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) would apply if Contact were applying for resource consents for the Southland Wind Farm Project under the standard RMA process. Details of the Project Site, landholdings relevant to the Project and resource consents that are being sought are included in **Appendix A** to this letter.

If the Council has any further questions or matters they would like to discuss in relation to the application for the Southland Wind Farm under the FTAA, please let me know.

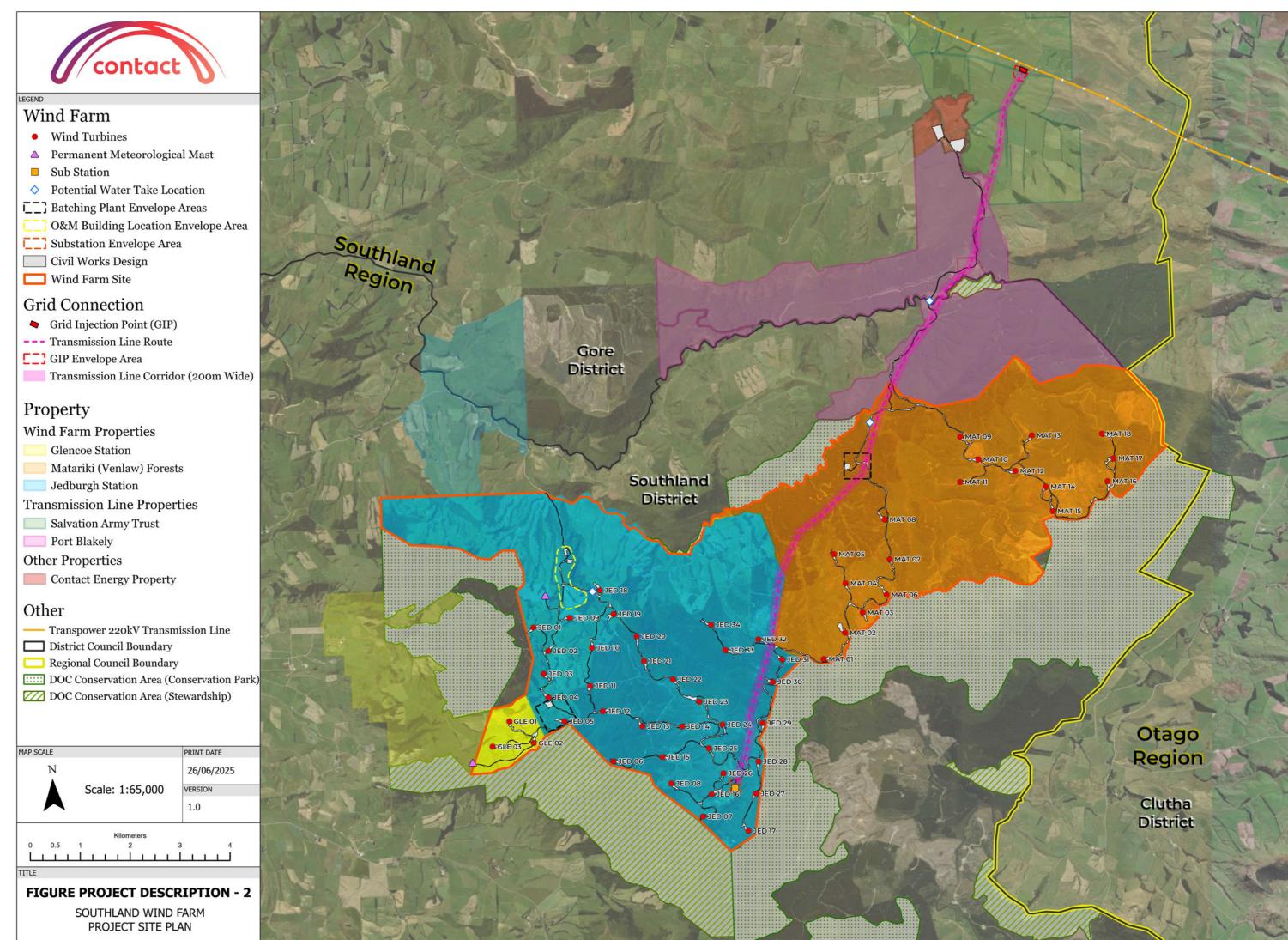
Yours sincerely



Matthew Cleland

Head of Wind & Solar

Appendix A



L Service Layer Credits: Environment Southland, Maxar

Southland Wind Farm Landholdings

Legal Owner	Legal Description and Title Reference	WTGs ¹	Wind Farm Substation	Site Access	Transmission Line	Switching Station (GIP)
	Section 3 Block IX Slopedown Survey District, RT SL9D/824	34	Υ	Option 1 ²	Υ	
	Section 2 Block IX Slopedown Survey District, Section 1 Survey Office Plan 9639 and Section 1 Survey Office Plan 10255, RT SL8D/456			Option 1		
	Lot 1 DP 3613 and Section 1 Survey Office Plan 9465, RT SL155/79			Option 1		
	Lot 2 DP 363843 and Lot 1 DP 13176 and Section 1-2 Survey Office Plan 9464 and Section 15 Block X Tuturau Survey District and Part Section 16 Block X Tuturau Survey District, RT 259751			Option 1		
	Lot 1 DP 363843, RT 259750			Option 1		
Matariki Forests	Lot 1 DP 12509, RT 407674	18				
	Section 61-62 Block III Wyndham Survey District, RT SL9B/866	3				

¹ Wind Turbine Generators: these are located on three landholdings.

 $^{^{2}\,}$ Option 1 is the transport route into the Wind Farm Site accessed from the west, via Thornhill Road (off Venlaw Road).

Legal Owner	Legal Description and Title Reference	WTGs ¹	Wind Farm Substation	Site Access	Transmission Line	Switching Station (GIP)
	Lot 1 DP 15096, RT SL12A/655				γ3	
Port Blakely Limited	Lot 2 DP 362693, RT 255758			Option 2 ⁴	Υ	
Port Blakely Limited	Lot 4-7 DP 15305, Lot 1-4 DP 15076 and Lot 1 DP 15078, SL12B/81			Option 2	Y	
Port Blakely Limited	Section 26 Block II Slopedown Survey District, 265526			Option 2	Y	
The Salvation Army New Zealand Trust	Section 11, Section 16-17 and Part Section 9-10 Block II Slopedown Survey District, RT SLA4/151				Υ	
The Salvation Army New Zealand Trust	Section 5 and Section 20-22 Block II Slopedown Survey District, RT SL17/134				Y	Y
Contact Energy Limited	Lot 1-3 DP 15305 and Lot 1 DP 15306, SL12B/80			Option 2		
Gore District Council, Southland District Council	Road reserve and unformed legal road (paper roads)			Option 1 and Option 2	Υ	

³ No structures will be constructed on this property, however, an airspace easement may be required for the transmission line to cross over a small portion of this property.

⁴ Option 2 is the transport route into the Wind Farm Site accessed from the north, through the Port Blakely forest property, accessed from Davidson Road West (off Kaiwera Downs Road).

Resource Consents Required under the Southland Regional Council Regional Plans

Rule	Rule Summary	Project Activity	Activity Status
Regiona	l Air Plan 2016		
5.5.5	Any industrial or trade processes that are not strictly provided for in the Regional Air Plan.	Discharge of dust from construction activities including road improvement works and discharge of contaminants to air from the onsite concrete batching facilities.	Discretionary
Propose	d Southland Water and Land Plan	(operative in part)	
Rule 5	Discharge of contaminants or water to a waterbody, namely sediment during construction, that meet the rule conditions.	It is anticipated that with the appropriate management practices in place, including an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan ("ESCP"), Contact will avoid discharging sediment to water beyond what is permitted in the SWLP. However, as the Project involves activities near streams, including the construction of stream crossings, as a precaution, Contact is seeking resource consent to discharge sediment to surface water during construction activities. Contact will implement water quality monitoring during construction in accordance with the ESCP, and this will ensure the relevant water quality standards are met.	Discretionary
Rule 42(b)	Discharge of cleanfill associated with the earthwork disposal sites associated with the wind farm construction greater than 500m ³ .	The construction of the Southland Wind Farm will involve the discharge of approximately 1,111,000m³ of cleanfill to land within the Wind Farm Site and 665,000m³ of cleanfill to be used as engineered fill within the Wind Farm Site.	Restricted discretionary
Rule 49(b)(ii)	For non-consumptive takes where the total volume of water taken or diverted is returned within 100 metres of the take or diversion point.	The temporary diversion of water may be required during the construction of culverts and/or a bridge.	Restricted Discretionary
Rule 49(c)	The taking, use and diversion of surface water for infrastructure construction.	The take of water at a maximum rate of 5L/s at one site within Jedburgh Station and one site within Matariki Forest will exceed the permitted volume. The maximum daily volume of take at each site will not exceed 432m³, with compliance with the permitted activity rules of the SWLP when the minimum stream flow is Q95. Water will be used during construction including for earthworks activities, concrete batching, dust control and general Project activities.	Discretionary

Rule	Rule Summary	Project Activity	Activity Status
Rule 53(a)	The drilling and construction of a bore.	Geotechnical investigations will be required as part of the enabling works and will include the drilling of a bore at each of the proposed wind turbine sites. The activity will comply with the conditions of the Rule.	Controlled
Rule 59(b)	The placement and erection of culverts in, on, under or over the bed of a river and any associated bed disturbance and discharge resulting from carrying out the activity that does not meet one or more of the conditions of Rule 59(a).	Culverts have been designed in accordance with the New Zealand Fish Passage Guidelines and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. Some of these culverts will exceed the 1,200mm limit specified by Rule 59(a) of the SWLP.	Controlled
Rule 69	Any use, erection, maintenance, placement of any structure in, on, or over the bed of a river or wetland, not provided for by a rule in the Plan.	The Project involves activities within streams and wetlands, including the construction of a bridge, culverts and access road. As a precaution, for any activities that are required that are not otherwise covered by another rule in the SWLP, consent is being sought under this rule.	Discretionary
Rule 74(c)	The use of land within a natural wetland that is not for the purposes listed in Rule 74(a).	Civil works within a natural wetland(s).	Non-complying

RURAL CITY LIVING

21.07.2025

Matthew Cleland C/O Chris Drayton

Contact Energy



29 Bowler Avenue, Gore 9710 PO Box 8, Gore 9740

Phone 03 209 0330 Email info@goredc.govt.nz www.goredc.govt.nz

Dear Mr Cleland

Re: Contact Southland Wind Farm Project

Thank you for your letter dated 2 July 2025 notifying the Gore District Council that Contact Energy will be applying for all necessary approvals under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) for the construction, operation and maintenance of a wind farm and associated infrastructure in Slopedown, Southland (referred to as the **Southland Wind Farm Project**).

Your letter has requested that the Gore District Council confirms by written notice to Contact Energy that in accordance with Section 30(3) of the FTAA, there are no existing consents to which sections 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("the RMA") would apply if the Southland Wind Farm project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA.

Based on the application that is currently before the Council staff can advise that as the date of this letter there are no existing consents to which section 124C(1)(c) of the RMA would apply if the Southland Wind Farm Project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA.

Should you require any further information with regard to the above, please contact Mishka Banhidi – Consultant Planner via email at Mbanhidi@propertygroup.co.nz

Yours faithfully



Consultant Planner





2 July 2025

Gore District Council PO Box 8 Gore 9740

Dear

Subject: Contact Energy – Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Southland Wind Farm Application

Following our discussions at the end of March regarding our intent to lodge a referral application to seek eligibility to use the process provided for under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA), this letter officially notifies the Gore District Council that, once the referral application is accepted, Contact Energy Limited (Contact) will be applying for all approvals necessary under the FTAA for the construction, operation and maintenance of a wind farm and associated infrastructure in Slopedown, Southland (referred to as the Southland Wind Farm Project).

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The Wind Farm Site is situated within the Southland District and Southland Region. In addition to the infrastructure on the Wind Farm Site, the proposed activities will include the construction of a transmission line and a Grid Injection Point within the Gore District (also in the Southland Region).

Contact has consulted with the Gore District Council over the past two years regarding this Project and this has helpfully informed the Project, including the proposed consent conditions. Contact confirms the Project is essentially the same as the previous application made for the Project under the Covid-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act (2020). Contact has obtained further technical information to support the application that will be lodged under the FTAA, and this has resulted in refinements to the Project design and additional improvements to the proposed management measures.

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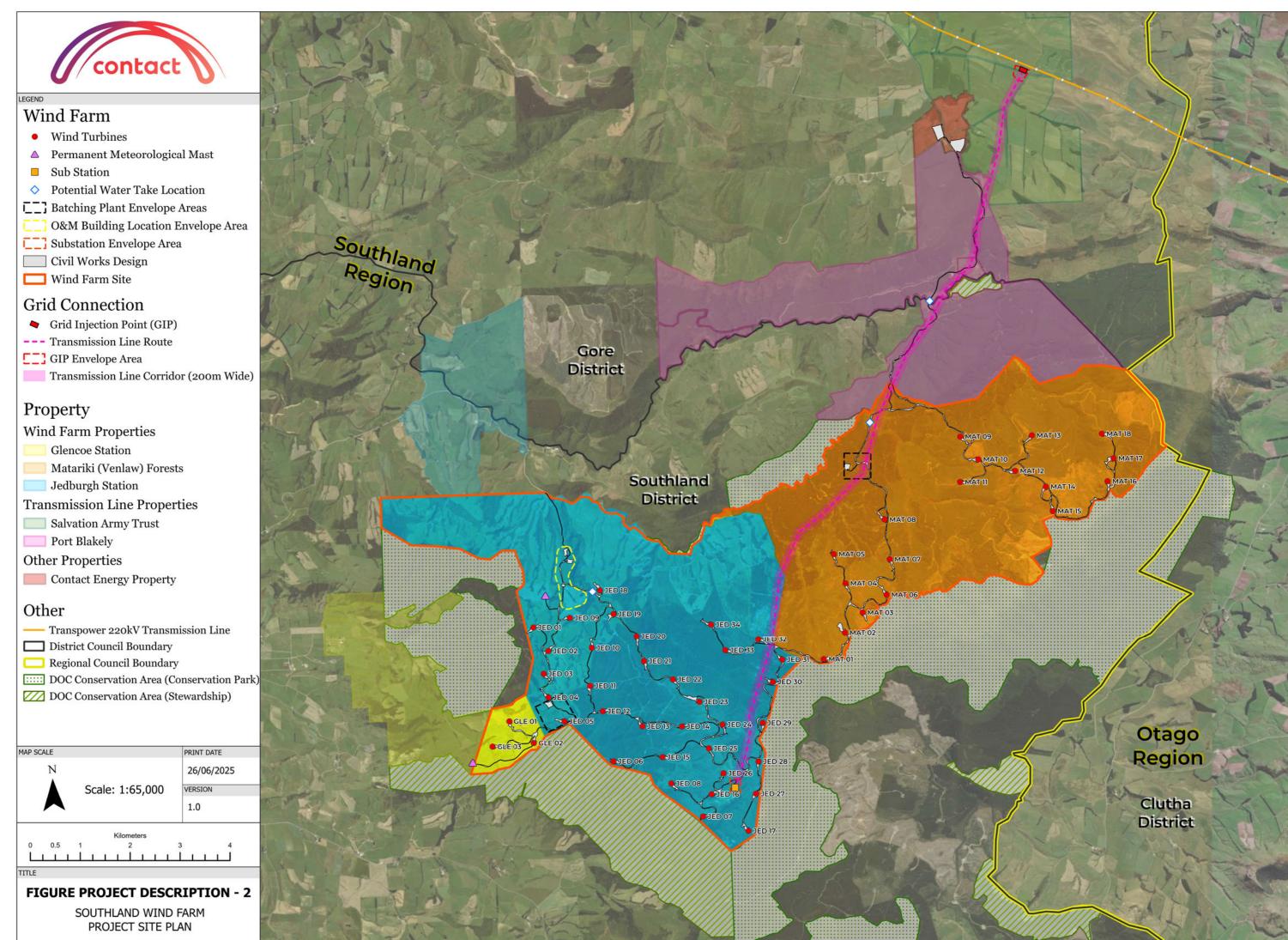
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Resource Consents Required under the Gore District Plans

Rule	Rule Summary	Project Activity	Activity Status				
Operative Gore District Plan							
7.9.3(e)	A new electricity line that will exceed 110kV.	The construction of a 220kV transmission line to form the connection between the wind farm substation and the GIP.	Discretionary				
7.9.4(b)	A new electricity substation.	The GIP will include an electricity substation that will comprise of pole mounted structures that exceed a volume of 0.6m ³ .	Restricted Discretionary				
4.13.1(1)	A land use activity that involves earthworks where the period of the commencement until of such earthworks until the completion of rehabilitation work exceeds 12 months.	Earthworks activities will be required for the construction of the transmission line, access road and GIP and these activities may exceed a period of 12 months.	Restricted Discretionary				
Proposed (Gore District Plan						
ENRG-R2	Large-Scale Renewable Electricity Generation construction, operation, maintenance, repairs and upgrading (including and structures and associated buildings).	The Southland Wind Farm meets the definition of a large-scale renewable electricity generation activity, ⁵ and as such, any activities associated with the construction and operation of the Southland Wind Farm, including the transmission line and GIP, are provided for under this rule.	Discretionary				

Renewable electricity generation activities – large scale means electricity generation activities utilising renewable energy sources with a capacity of 20kW or greater for the purpose of exporting electricity directly into the distribution network or National Grid. It includes all ancillary components and activities such as substations, climate / environmental monitoring equipment, earthworks, roading, maintenance buildings, temporary concrete batching plants, internal transmission and fibre networks, vegetation clearance, and site rehabilitation works, Interpretation Chapter, Proposed Gore District Plan.



Memo

Southland Wind Farm – Southland District Council Section 30 (3) Memo

TO:	Matthew Cleland – Contact Energy
FROM:	Southland District Council
DATE:	Wednesday 16 th July 2025

In accordance with the Fast-Track Approval Act 2024 (FTAA) this memo provided by Southland District Council (SDC) is to address the requirements under Section 30 of the FTAA.

The Southland Wind Farm Project, located with the Southland District at Slopedown/Pawakataka proposes 55 turbines, up to a height of 220 metres and producing 1.2GW per annum. Additional infrastructure of a single transmission line, grid injection point facility, two concrete batching plants and storage ponds, and two temporary construction facilities and one permanent maintenance facility is proposed as part of the activity. The anticipated construction period is 2 to 3 years, with an operational lifetspan of 30 years, with the potential to extend.

Contact Energy has previously applied for this project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 and was declined consent on 18 March 2025. Prior to the lodgement of this application and during the consenting process Contact Energy make significant effort to consult with SDC. During this consultation, SDC engaged a number of specialists to inform feedback during the consultation period and to formulate the Council comment provided in November 2024.

As per the requirement of Section 30 of the FFTA, the applicant must notify each consent authority that has jurisdiction over the area where the approval would apply for the application, Contract Energy fulfilled this notification obligation on 2nd July 2025 via written communication and an in-person meeting was held on the 8th July 2025.

In response to this notification, Section 30(3) of the FTAA requires the Consent Authority to provide the following written notice;

- (3) A consent authority that receives the notice must, by written notice, advise the authorised person
 - a. Of any existing resource consents to which section 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 would apply if the approval were to be applied for as a resource consent under that Act; or
 - b. That there are no existing resource consents of that kind

SDC can confirm that the subject site does not contain any existing resource consents for the same activity using some or all of the same natural resources, nor does it have any current applications lodged with Council for the subject site.

PO Box 903



Please advise if further information or clarification is required.

Yours sincerely



Manager Resource Consent Planning

And



Senior Resource Management Planner Consents



2 July 2025

Southland District Council PO Box 903 Invercargill 9840



Subject: Contact Energy – Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Southland Wind Farm Application

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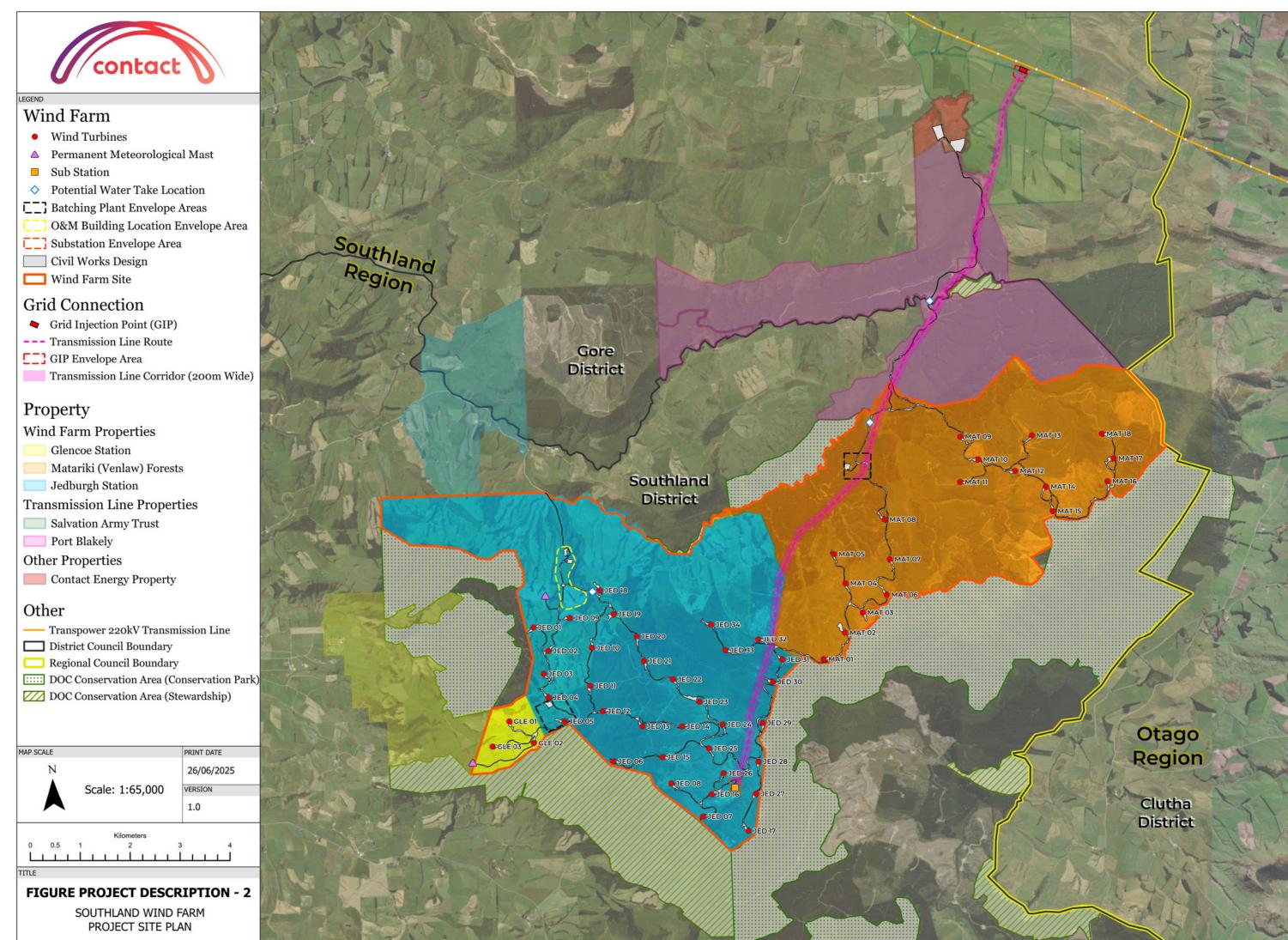
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Resource Consents Required under the Southland District Plan

Rule	Rule Summary	Project Activity	Activity Status
Section 2	2.2 Biodiversity		
BIO.3	The clearance, modification or removal of indigenous vegetation that is not provided for as a permitted or controlled activity.	The Project will involve the clearance of approximately 64ha of indigenous vegetation, primarily to enable the construction of the access tracks and wind turbine foundations.	Discretionary
Section 2	2.9 Energy, Minerals and Infrastructur	re	
INF.4(1)	The construction of a new transmission line that is not provided for by another rule.	The construction a new 220kV transmission line to form the connection between the wind farm substation and the GIP.	Discretionary
INF.4(2)	The construction of new transformers, substations and switching stations that distribute electricity (including their ancillary buildings) that exceed 30m³ in area.	A substation will be constructed on the Wind Farm Site and will up to approximately 2.5ha.	Discretionary
Section 3	3.1 Rural Zone		
RURAL. 3(1)	Earthworks disturbance that exceeds 1,000m³ in volume in a 12 month period and alters the existing ground level by more than 5m in depth or 2m in height.	The construction of the Southland Wind Farm will involve approximately 1,734,000m³ of cut within the Wind Farm Site.	Restricted discretionary
RURAL. 3(1)	Earthworks greater than 25m³ within a riparian margin.	The Project will require earthworks exceeding 25m³ within a riparian margin during the construction of access roads and wind turbine platforms.	Restricted discretionary
RURAL. 3(1)	The discharge of more than 500m³ of cleanfill.	The construction of the Southland Wind Farm will involve the discharge of approximately 1,111,000m³ of cleanfill to land within the Wind Farm Site and 665,000m³ of cleanfill to be used as engineered fill within the Wind Farm Site.	Restricted discretionary
RURAL. 4(1)	All other activities not provided for by another rule associated with the construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the wind farm.	The construction of the Southland Wind Farm involves a range of activities and resource consent is sought under this rule for any activities that are not otherwise	Discretionary

provided for by any other rule in the Southland District Plan.	Rule	Rule Summary	Project Activity	Activity Status