

5 March 2026

Fast-track Team  
Environmental Protection Agency

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Kia ora

## **FTAA 2509-1100 THE POINT SOLAR FARM – FURTHER ECOLOGICAL REPORTS - COMMENTS FROM DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION ON VEGETATION**

In its Minutes 3 and 4, the Expert Panel requested that Far North Solar Farms (FNSF) provide further information on landscape and ecology. In Minute 5, the Panel requested comments from s 53 parties on that further information.

DOC responded to that request on 27 February 2026 but was unable to provide comments on the Vegetation Survey and Vegetation Management Plan because the Technical Advisor dealing with the vegetation aspects of the proposal was undertaking field work in a remote location and uncontactable at that time. We therefore proposed that we would provide those comments by Friday 6 March, which the Expert Panel agreed to.

This letter provides those comments. A report from Technical Advisor Richard Ewans is attached, and key points are summarised below.

### **Vegetation Survey**

The further information has provided a more appropriate survey of vegetation and habitats within the site boundary. In particular, we note that four additional indigenous species were found outside the development footprint but still within the site, including the Threatened – Nationally Critical *Lepidium solandri* in the southern gully.

Areas outside the site boundary have not been systematically searched. Given that, activities within the site will need to be managed so as to avoid spillover or edge effects outside the site.

### **Vegetation Management Plan**

The technical review concludes that progress has been made towards addressing ecological issues relating to indigenous vegetation, but outstanding issues remain relating to planting of indigenous species for landscape screening, and for lizard and terrestrial invertebrate habitat enhancement.

The review makes a number of recommendations, to ensure appropriate plantings and management within the site, and the avoidance of impacts beyond the site.

We note that the Expert Panel has directed the applicant to undertake a comprehensive review of proposed consent conditions, working with the applicant for the Haldon Solar Farm and consulting with mana whenua and s 53 parties. We consider that the attached recommendations should be incorporated as part of that exercise - this would help ensure that vegetation impacts are adequately addressed, and would enable alignment between vegetation-related conditions and the wider set of ecological and other conditions as appropriate.

We hope the Panel finds these comments helpful. If you have any questions regarding them, please contact Murray Brass on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Jenni Fitzgerald  
**Fast-Track Applications Manager**

Acting pursuant to delegated authority on behalf of the Director-General of Conservation.

Note: A copy of the Instrument of Delegation may be inspected at the Director-General's office at Conservation House Whare Kaupapa Atawhai, 18/32 Manners Street, Wellington 6011