

1 July 2026
Job No: 1103154.0000

Environmental Protection Authority
Level 10
Grant Thornton House
215 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6140

Attention: Amanda Dewar

Dear Amanda

Foxton Solar Farm
Technical peer review of acoustic assessment

1 Introduction

Genesis Energy Ltd is applying for consent under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to construct and operate a solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) north of Foxton, within Horowhenua District in the Manawatū-Whanganui region. The application is being assessed by an Expert Panel, which has appointed Darran Humpheson, Technical Director of Acoustics at Tonkin & Taylor Limited (T+T), as a technical advisor to the Panel. Mr Humpheson has been requested to provide a peer review of the Applicant's acoustic assessment and the Applicant's suggested conditions.

T+T has been engaged by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to provide these services. This letter report provides a summary and conclusions of the peer review.

Specifically, the review includes:

- Whether Mr Humpheson agrees or disagrees with the SLR noise assessment (with reasons)
- Whether the predicted noise effects on neighbouring properties require mitigation. If 'yes' then explain why and advise what sort of mitigation would be considered appropriate.

The following documents have been reviewed:

- SLR report *Acoustic Assessment. Fast Track Approvals Act Application. Foxton Solar Farm*. SLR Project No.: 810.V14848.00001 dated 13 February 2026
- SLR report *Acoustic Assessment. Fast Track Approvals Act Application. Foxton Solar Farm*. SLR Project No.: 810.V14848.00005 dated 23 June 2026 ("SLR June Report")

SLR's 13 February 2026 report was updated following Minute 7 of the Expert Panel, as appended to this review. The SLR June Report responds to the acoustic matters raised in the minute.

2 Relevant assessment criteria

The site and surrounding area are zoned General Rural under the Horowhenua District Plan. The applicable permitted noise limits for operational noise are listed under NOISE-R1 as follows:

- 7 am to 7 pm 55 dB LAeq(15min)
- 7 pm to 10 pm 50 dB LAeq(15min)
- 10 pm to 7 am 40 dB LAeq(15min) and 65 dB LAmax

These standards apply at any point within another General Rural site. This assessment location is not the same as a notional boundary assessment location as typically applies across many district plans. Under a typical rural noise rule using a notional boundary:

- Noise is assessed at a defined point around a dwelling (often 20 m from the dwelling or the legal boundary if closer).
- Large rural properties effectively gain some acoustic buffering because the assessment point is usually near where people actually live.
- Noise generated in one rural property can exceed the noise limit over parts of neighbouring farmland, provided it complies at the notional boundary of the neighbouring dwelling.

Under the Horowhenua District Plan:

- The noise limit applies across the entire neighbouring property, not just at a dwelling or other noise sensitive activity.
- Even remote paddocks, forestry blocks, or undeveloped parts of the neighbouring site become compliance locations.

The District Plan requires environmental noise to be measured in accordance with *NZS 6801:2008 Acoustics – Measurement of environmental sound* and assessed in accordance with *NZS 6802:2008 Acoustics – Environmental noise*. The requirements of *NZS 6803:1999 Acoustics – Construction noise* apply to construction noise.

3 Review

3.1 Proposal

The solar farm would comprise a solar array with a BESS, and the site would connect to the National Grid via a new on-site substation. Overall, the project area is approximately 335 ha, of which the BESS and substation would take up a total 3 ha.

The solar farm component would generate electricity during daylight hours, from approximately 5 am to 6 pm in summer and between 8 am to 4 pm in winter. The solar panels would track the sun using small electric motors. These tracker motors would operate intermittently during daylight hours. The generated electricity would be converted from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) through central inverter units.

The BESS would store energy that can be discharged to the local grid when required. The SLR June Report states that the most common time for the BESS to discharge would be during peak electricity demand periods; these typically occur during the daytime such as in the mornings between 7 am and 9 am and the evenings between 5 pm and 7 pm. The BESS would recharge from the local network during the night and/or during the day when electricity demand is low.

The primary sources of operational noise would be cooling fans associated with the BESS units and inverter units, which operate during charging, discharging or electricity conversion. Fan operation would therefore typically occur during daylight hours when the solar farm is generating electricity,

with extended operating periods in summer due to longer daylight hours. Depending on demand and operating conditions, BESS related fan noise may also occur during the evening and overnight periods when the system is charging from or discharging to the grid.

3.2 Existing noise environment

The results of SLR's ambient noise monitoring over the course of one week shows a typical rural environment with daytime noise levels around 50 dB LAeq and 35-40 dB LA90, dropping to a low level overnight (down to 19 dB LA90(15min)).

The night-time levels are variable but can be sufficiently low that there may be no masking of electrical infrastructure noise at the closest assessment locations.

3.3 Source levels

There is no detailed design for the site yet, and SLR has therefore relied on typical noise source levels for expected equipment. This is appropriate for the purposes of the assessment. Solar farm and BESS technologies are continually developing, and final equipment selection is typically not confirmed until procurement. Accordingly, it is reasonable to assess the proposal based on indicative equipment specifications, provided the final selected plant achieves equivalent or better acoustic performance.

SLR's assumed operational noise source levels are comparable with source levels we have used and seen for other solar projects.

For construction noise, in our experience the noise level quoted for a "worst-case pile driver" (Table 5 of the Report) is likely to be overly pessimistic. A pile driver is used to install the steel uprights for the solar panels. These piles are akin to fencing posts and only require a small rig. It is normal for there to be a number of rigs operating at any one time across a project. From T+T's experience, piling source levels closer to those quoted for the "mini pile driver or with shroud" are more typical (see Table 5 of the SLR June Report). The actual source sound level can be confirmed through noise monitoring at the start of pile driving, which can then inform construction noise management practices as documented in a construction management plan.

3.4 Assessment methodology

The SLR June Report sets out the assumptions and parameters used in the SoundPLAN v9.0 model of the operational solar farm. We note the following:

- The solar farm will operate during daylight hours, which may commence as early as 5 am in summer, i.e. within the night-time period as defined in the District Plan (defined as 10 pm to 7 am). Inverter fans may therefore operate during this 2 hour period (typically during the lighter months of January and February).
- Although operation of the BESS is anticipated to occur during daytime peak demand periods (typically 7–9 am and 5–7 pm), the assessment adopts a conservative assumption that this could also occur during the night-time period. At night the BESS units may recharge from the local network, and cooling fans may need to operate.
- The assessment assumes that all equipment is operating simultaneously at full capacity during the night-time period.

These assumptions are considered to represent a reasonable and appropriately conservative worst-case operational scenario.

As the District Plan requires noise to be assessed in accordance with NZS 6802:2008, the potential for special audible characteristics (SACs) at the assessment locations must be considered. SACs

include tonality (e.g. electrical hum or fan noise), impulsiveness (not typically associated with solar farm or BESS operation), and other distinguishable characteristics that may increase audibility.

The SLR report states that tonality may occur in proximity to plant but is unlikely to be perceptible at the nearest noise sensitive receivers. Where tonality is present at a receiver, NZS 6802:2008 typically requires the application of a +5 dB adjustment to the Rating Level. However, the SLR June Report does not present sound power level spectra, octave band data, or supporting assessment outputs to substantiate the conclusion that tonality would not be perceptible at the receiving environment.

While SLR has confirmed that octave band data were incorporated into the modelling, the June Report does not present a specific assessment of tonality at the receiver locations in accordance with Appendix B of NZS 6802:2008. Accordingly, there remains some uncertainty as to whether special audible characteristics may be present at the receiver locations, and therefore whether a SAC adjustment may be required.

To address this uncertainty, we consider that:

- a pre-construction or detailed design stage noise assessment should be undertaken once the specific electrical plant has been selected and the layout finalised. This assessment should confirm the presence or absence of SACs and to determine predicted Rating Levels at all assessment locations (properties); and
- following construction and commissioning of the solar farm and, if applicable, the BESS, a commissioning noise survey should be undertaken in accordance with NZS 6801:2008 and NZS 6802:2008. This survey should confirm whether SACs are present and whether any adjustments apply, and verify compliance with the relevant noise limits.

3.5 Predicted levels / effects

3.5.1 Operational noise levels

The District Plan requires operational noise (NZS 6802:2008 Rating Levels) to be assessed at the boundary of adjacent sites, rather than at the notional boundary of any dwelling. As a result, compliance must be achieved at locations where there may be no existing noise-sensitive receiver. This is the case for the most affected neighbouring property at 449 Wall Road¹, located opposite the BESS.

At this location, SLR predicts a Rating Level (assuming no SACs are present) of 45 dB LAeq(15min), which exceeds the night-time limit of 40 dB LAeq(15min) by 5 dB. The predicted level complies with the daytime limit of 55 dB LAeq(15min) and the evening limit of 50 dB LAeq(15min). As there is currently no dwelling on this property, no adverse noise effects on an existing noise-sensitive receiver would arise from the predicted night-time exceedance at this location.

At all other neighbouring properties, SLR predicts Rating Levels of no greater than 40 dB LAeq(15min) at all times.

SLR's predictions assume the implementation of a 3 m high acoustic barrier at the northern end of the BESS site, as shown in Figure 3 of the SLR June Report.

On this basis, and assuming no SACs are present, compliance with the District Plan is predicted at or within the boundary of all neighbouring sites, with the exception of 449 Wall Road under worst-case night-time operating conditions.

¹ Part Himatangi No. 3A3F Block – SLR reference PROP45

3.5.2 Noise effects

3.5.2.1 Day time and evening periods

While some increase in noise levels may be experienced across neighbouring properties, many of these sites do not contain a dwelling and are used for rural or agricultural purposes. In such cases, the sensitivity to noise is materially lower than for residential activities, where occupants have a reasonable expectation of a higher level of acoustic amenity.

Activities occurring in paddocks or open rural areas are typically transient and do not involve sustained occupation in noise sensitive contexts (such as rest or sleep within a dwelling). Accordingly, a higher level of noise can generally be tolerated without giving rise to adverse effects.

At neighbouring properties which also have a dwelling, the highest predicted noise level at the relevant property boundary is 40 dB LAeq(15min)². This level is below both the day time and evening noise limits of 55 dB and 50 dB LAeq(15min) respectively by a reasonable margin. From aerial mapping many of the dwellings are set back from the property boundaries and therefore noise levels at the dwellings are likely to be lower.

In this context, the predicted daytime and evening Rating Levels (generally no greater than 45 dB LAeq(15min), including at the worst-case location) are considered appropriate and acceptable. We therefore agree with SLR that daytime and evening noise effects will be reasonable.

3.5.2.2 Night-time period

Noise effects at night are most appropriately considered at existing dwellings rather than at site boundaries. SLR's second report confirms that façade noise levels were modelled at 1 metre from the most affected façade of each dwelling, including a +3 dB façade correction. We agree that this is an appropriate approach for assessing night-time effects.

At the closest existing dwelling, 371 Wall Road (RES08), SLR's updated worst-case façade level (Table C-2) is 40 dB LAeq. We note that this differs from the value reported in Section 6.5 of the June Report (37 dB LAeq), which appears not to have been updated following Minute 7. Accordingly, the calculated internal noise levels reported in the SLR June Report are no longer applicable. Our assessment below is based on the updated external level of 40 dB LAeq.

SLR has adopted an external criterion of 40 dB LAeq(15min) to indicate acceptable night-time effects at dwellings. We generally agree with this position, provided the noise does not exhibit SAC. Where SACs are present, the character of the noise could influence sleep disturbance and the ability to return to sleep.

The building façade sound insulation will depend on ventilation conditions. Where windows are partially open, an attenuation of approximately 15 dB may be achieved, as assumed in the Report. Where windows are more open, a lower attenuation of approximately 10 dB is more typical.

On this basis, we predict the internal noise level at 371 Wall Road to be:

- 25 dB LAeq (assuming 15 dB attenuation), or
- 30 dB LAeq (assuming 10 dB attenuation).

These levels are within, or at the upper end of, recommended internal night-time noise levels³ for bedrooms. A level of 30 dB LAeq aligns with the guideline value from the World Health Organization

² 371 Wall Road (PROP08) and 447 Motuiti Road (PROP09)

³ AS/NZS 2107:2016 *Acoustics – Recommended design sound levels and reverberation times for building interiors*

(WHO) for the avoidance of sleep impacts (30 dB LAeq(8hour)). We agree with SLR that sleep disturbance effects are therefore unlikely.

For a potential future dwelling at the worst-case location within 449 Wall Road (PROP45 - Part Himatangi 3A3F Block), the predicted external level would correspond to an internal level in the order of 30 dB to 35 dB LAeq, depending on the degree of window opening and façade attenuation. This would be at, or up to approximately 5 dB above, the upper end of commonly referenced internal guideline levels for bedrooms.

However, the siting, orientation, and design of any future dwelling could readily reduce internal noise levels. In addition, the highest predicted noise levels are likely to occur only under particular operating scenarios, such as summer operation of the inverter fans and BESS charging at night, and would not be continuous.

Overall, internal noise levels for any future dwelling are expected to remain within a reasonable range.

We agree with SLR that predicted daytime and evening noise levels comply with the relevant limits and will result in acceptable noise effects, having regard to the existing ambient environment. Night-time effects at existing dwellings are also considered acceptable.

However, the potential SACs, such as tonality, introduces some uncertainty, as these may increase the subjective audibility of the noise. To address this, a further noise assessment is recommended at the detailed design stage, once the specific electrical plant has been selected and the layout finalised, to confirm whether any SACs are likely. This should be followed, after construction and commissioning, by a noise survey to determine whether SACs are present and to confirm compliance with the relevant noise limits.

3.5.3 Construction noise levels / effects

The construction activity with the greatest potential to exceed the permitted daytime construction noise limits is impact piling. The Report identifies mitigation measures to avoid or manage these potential exceedances, as discussed further below.

We agree that construction vibration effects are likely to be negligible at the nearest receiver, given the separation distances involved and the nature of the proposed works.

3.6 Mitigation

3.6.1 Operation

Operational noise levels at receivers along Wall Road are predicted to be dominated by noise from the BESS. Where predicted operational noise levels are not within the permitted noise limits, the mitigation options that would typically be considered include:

- Reducing noise at source, for example by selecting quieter equipment. SLR's noise assessment allows for this by adopting operating assumptions and recommending that noise levels are reassessed following detailed design.
- Increasing separation distance between noise sources and receivers, for example by adjusting the site layout. The SLR June Report does not specifically address whether further adjustment to the BESS layout is practicable.
- Orienting directional noise sources away from receivers, where practicable. The SLR June Report does not discuss the directionality of the BESS noise sources or whether orientation could be used to reduce noise levels at neighbouring properties.

- Screening the noise source from receivers, for example by using an acoustic barrier or earth bund to break line of sight. The SLR June Report includes a 3 m high barrier or earth bund on the northern side of the BESS and recommends this mitigation to screen the closest neighbouring property at 449 Wall Road. The SLR June Report does not discuss whether the length, height, or location of the barrier has been optimised. However, the predicted effects of the proposed barrier have been modelled, and its final dimensions and location can appropriately be confirmed through the acoustic assessment following detailed design.

Across the wider solar farm, operational noise levels are predicted to be dominated by the central inverter units. Based on the stated source level, noise levels greater than 40 dB LAeq would occur at distances of less than approximately 150 m. The Report states that *“units without localised mitigation are recommended [to] be located at least 150 m from the subject site boundary, understood from the project team to be feasible.”* The Report does not describe what “localised mitigation” would comprise. However, as locating the inverter units at least 150 m from the site boundary is understood to be feasible, any alternative mitigation can be addressed through the acoustic assessment following detailed design.

The individual tracker motors are low-noise sources and are distributed across the site. Noise from these units is predicted to be well within the permitted noise limits.

Cumulative operational noise from the BESS, inverter units, and tracker motors should be confirmed as part of the detailed design acoustic assessment.

3.6.2 Construction

The SLR June Report proposes that piling be restricted to Monday to Friday between 7:30 am and 6:00 pm. Section 5.1 of the report also includes restrictions on combinations of piling equipment under the heading “Impact piling”, with the objective of maintaining construction noise levels below 70 dB LAeq.

In our experience, it is generally not appropriate to include highly specific equipment-combination restrictions as consent conditions. Construction noise is better managed through a Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP), or through specific noise requirements and procedures within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This approach provides an appropriate balance between certainty of outcome and flexibility in construction methodology.

This is particularly relevant because:

- a actual source levels may differ from those assumed in the assessment. We recommend that noise monitoring be undertaken at the start of piling to confirm the source levels, particularly where a shroud or other mitigation is used;
- b some nearby dwellings may not be occupied during the daytime, or may not be occupied during certain construction periods. This can be confirmed through engagement with affected landowners or occupiers; and
- c in some circumstances, it may be preferable for noise-sensitive receivers for higher-noise activities to be completed over a shorter duration, rather than requiring lower noise levels that prolong the overall period of disturbance. This can also be addressed through engagement.

We have included these matters in our recommended amendments to the proposed conditions below.

4 Recommended conditions

We have viewed the applicant's proposed conditions of consent (26 June 2026) and provide the following comments on conditions relevant to noise.

Table 4.1: Comments on proposed conditions

Condition	Comment
A17 Management plans	We recommend that a project specific CNMP is prepared in accordance with Annex E of NZS 6803:1999.
B8 Construction noise and vibration	Recommend a revision
B9 Impact piling restricted to Mon-Fri 7.30 am to 6 pm	Minor wording change
B10 CEMP to include construction noise mitigation measures to meet NZS 6803:1999 limits, specifically for dwellings within 150 m of the site	Recommend a project specific CNMP
B11 Construction vibration must comply with DIN 4150-3:2016 limits	Agree – highly unlikely that vibration limits will be exceeded. Good practice to use the latest version of the standard <i>DIN 4150-3:2016-12, Vibrations in buildings - Part 3: Effects on structures</i>
B18 Operational noise limits	No change
B19 Acoustic assessment to confirm compliance	Amended
B20 Prior to operation of the BESS construct a 3m acoustic barrier or undertake an acoustic assessment to demonstrate limits can be met without barrier	Amended and incorporated into Condition B19
B21 Noise monitoring for compliance	Agree
B22 Noise monitoring report	Agree but with addition of SACs
B23 Repeated noise monitoring following installation of BESS	Agree
B23A new compliance requirement	Condition required if monitoring under Condition B21 does not demonstrate compliance

Recommended new / amended conditions are presented below.

B8. Noise from construction activities must be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS 6803:1999 Acoustics – Construction Noise. Construction activities must be managed to achieve the construction noise limits in Table 5 as far as practicable. Where those limits cannot practicably be achieved, construction noise effects must be managed in accordance with a certified Construction Noise Management Plan.

Table 2: Construction noise limits adopted for this project, based on Table 2 of NZS 6803:1999

Timeframe		Noise Limit at neighbouring dwellings	
		L _{Aeq}	L _{AFMax}
Weekday	6.30 am to 7.30 am	55dB	75dB
	7.30 am to 6.00 pm	70dB	85dB

Saturdays	6.00 pm to 8.00 pm	65dB	80dB
	8.00 pm to 6.30 am	45dB	75dB
	6.30 am to 7.30 am	45dB	75dB
	7.30 am to 6.00 pm	70dB	85dB
	6.00 pm to 8.00 pm	45dB	75dB
	8.00 pm to 6.30 am	45dB	75dB
Sundays and public holidays: No construction works to be undertaken			

B9. Impact piling must be undertaken only between 7:30 am and 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

B10. At least 20 working days prior to any construction commencing on site, a Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP) shall be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced acoustic consultant and submitted to Council for certification that it satisfies this condition and addresses, as a minimum, the measures identified in Annex E of NZS 6803:1999. The CNMP shall additionally include:

- a. Predicted noise levels 1 metre from the façade of occupied dwellings for each phase of construction, based on the plant and methodology proposed
- b. The proposed piling rig model and either measured sound levels from installation of piles of a similar size, or manufacturer's sound power level data
- c. Details of mitigation measures to be applied where predicted levels exceed the applicable limits of Condition B8.
- d. Written communication with the occupiers of all dwellings within 150 metres of proposed piling works, at least 10 working days prior to those works commencing, setting out a brief overview of the works, the working hours and expected duration, the mitigation measures to be implemented, and the procedure for recording and responding to noise complaints.

B11. Vibration from construction activities must at all times comply with the vibration limits set out in German Standard DIN 4150-3:2016-12, Vibrations in buildings - Part 3: Effects on structures.

B19/B20. No later than 6 weeks prior to the commencement of construction of the solar farm and BESS, where applicable, the Consent Holder must provide Council with an acoustic assessment prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced acoustic consultant. The acoustic assessment must demonstrate that the final selected plant and final layout will comply with the noise limits in Condition B18, including any adjustment for special audible characteristics required under NZS 6802:2008.

The assessment must include, as relevant:

- a. the sound power levels and frequency spectra of all significant electro-mechanical plant, including inverters, BESS units and the substation transformer;
- b. the cumulative operational noise level from all relevant electro-mechanical plant;
- c. confirmation of any equipment selection, layout, orientation, screening, operating controls or other mitigation measures to be incorporated into the design or operation of the activity; and
- d. if a BESS is installed, confirmation that either:
 - i. an acoustic barrier or earth bund with a minimum height of 3 m above BESS ground level will be constructed on the northern side of the BESS, generally in accordance with Figure 3 of the Acoustics Assessment lodged with the Application; or

ii. alternative acoustic mitigation, or no acoustic barrier, is appropriate because the acoustic assessment demonstrates that the noise limits in Condition B18 will be complied with.

The activity must be constructed and operated in accordance with the mitigation measures confirmed in the acoustic assessment.

B22. A report detailing the monitoring outcome under Condition B21 must be provided to HDC within twenty (20) working days of the monitoring period being completed. The report must:

- a. present measured noise levels and demonstrate compliance with the limits in Condition B18;
- b. assess whether any special audible characteristics (SACs) are present in accordance with NZS 6801:2008 and NZS 6802:2008;
- c. where SACs are identified, apply the appropriate adjustments to derive Rating Levels; and
- d. confirm compliance with the relevant noise limits, taking into account any applicable SAC adjustments.

B23a. If the noise limits in Condition B18 are not achieved following the post commissioning verification required by Condition B21, the Consent Holder must notify Council and implement mitigation measures to achieve compliance with Condition B18. The mitigation measures must be implemented as soon as practicable and no later than 8 weeks after the non-compliance is identified, unless otherwise agreed in writing with Council. Following completion of the mitigation measures, the compliance measurements required by Conditions B21 and B22 must be repeated and an updated report provided to Council.

5 Conclusion

We have peer reviewed the SLR acoustic assessment and the Applicant's proposed noise and vibration conditions for the proposed Foxton Solar Farm and BESS.

Overall, we consider that the SLR assessment adopts a generally appropriate and suitably conservative methodology for assessing operational noise from the solar farm, BESS and associated electrical infrastructure. The assumptions that all major plant may operate simultaneously, including during the night-time period, provide an appropriate worst-case basis for assessment.

The predicted operational noise levels are expected to comply with the relevant District Plan noise limits at all neighbouring sites, except at 449 Wall Road during the night-time period under worst-case operating conditions. The predicted Rating Level at that location is 45 dB LAeq(15 min), which exceeds the night-time limit by 5 dB. However, there is currently no dwelling or other noise-sensitive receiver at that location. In our opinion, the predicted level is acceptable in terms of noise effects, given the rural/agricultural use of the property and the lower sensitivity of activities occurring in open paddocks or farmland compared with residential occupation.

At existing dwellings, including the closest dwelling at 371 Wall Road, predicted daytime and evening noise levels are well within the relevant limits and are expected to result in acceptable amenity, having regard to the existing ambient environment. Predicted night-time noise levels are expected to result in internal noise levels within, or at the upper end of, commonly referenced guideline values for bedrooms. On that basis, sleep disturbance effects are unlikely, provided the noise does not contain special audible characteristics.

There remains some uncertainty regarding whether SACs, particularly tonality from electrical plant or cooling fans, may be present at receiver locations. This can be appropriately addressed through a detailed design acoustic assessment once final plant selections and layout are confirmed, and through post-commissioning monitoring in accordance with NZS 6801:2008 and NZS 6802:2008.

Construction noise effects are expected to be manageable. Impact piling has the greatest potential to exceed the relevant construction noise limits, but this can be appropriately managed through restrictions on piling hours, early verification monitoring, communication with nearby occupiers, and a project-specific Construction Noise Management Plan prepared in accordance with NZS 6803:1999. Construction vibration effects are expected to be negligible at the nearest receivers.

Subject to the recommended amendments to the proposed consent conditions, including requirements for a detailed design acoustic assessment, construction noise management, and post-commissioning verification, we consider that noise and vibration effects from the proposal can be appropriately managed and will be acceptable.

6 Applicability

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client Environmental Protection Authority, with respect to the particular brief given to us and it may not be relied upon in other contexts or for any other purpose, or by any person other than our client, without our prior written agreement.

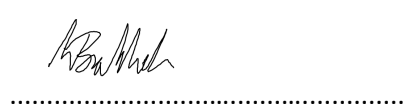
Tonkin & Taylor Ltd

Report prepared by:



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Authorised for Tonkin & Taylor Ltd by:



Wayne Broekhals
Project Director

1-Jul-26

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Appendix A Minute 7

MINUTE 7 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Request for further information on the acoustic assessment
Foxton Solar Farm [FTAA-2510-1121]
[18 June 2026]

[1] The purpose of this minute is to request further information from the Applicant under section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) in relation to the acoustic assessment produced by SLR Consulting (SLR).

[2] As recorded in Minute 6, the Panel appointed Darren Humpheson to assist the Panel with acoustic matters.

[3] Mr Humpheson has raised the following queries in relation to the acoustic assessment produced by SLR (dated 13 February 2026):

- *Tables C-1 and C-2 in Appendix C (results of noise modelling) have the same title (Predicted highest noise level – property boundaries) but Table C-2 appears to be results for dwellings. Please confirm.*
- *The SLR Report does not state where the dwelling results are predicted, i.e. is this a façade level, at the notional boundary or freefield at the location of the dwelling. Please confirm.*
- *The SLR Report states that assumed transformer frequency spectra was adopted in the Sound PLAN model. There is no similar statement for other electrical infrastructure. Please confirm whether broadband data has been modelled or frequency data. If broadband what are the implications / uncertainties (sound propagation, barrier performance, tonality at receiver location).*
- *The results in Tables C-1 and C-2 do not appear to line up with the predicted noise contour plot. For example:*
 - *371 Wall Road, PROP08 (property boundary location, Table C-1) a level of 35 dB*

L_{Aeq} is predicted but RES08 (dwelling, Table C-2) shows a higher level of 37 dB L_{Aeq}. We would expect a higher predicted level at the closer property boundary location (unless the dwelling level is a façade level).

- *286 Wall Road, PROP04 is 38 dB L_{Aeq}, RES04 is 38 dB(A) – RES04 being further from the site boundary.*
- *368 Motuiti Road, PROP10 is 32 dB L_{Aeq}, RES10 is 34 dB L_{Aeq})*
- *181 Motuiti Road (PROP41 is 33 dB L_{Aeq}, RES41 is 40 dB L_{Aeq})*

[4] Mr Humpheson has requested that the result tables and the report be updated to address these anomalies.

[5] The Panel has considered matters identified by Mr Humpheson and is satisfied that further clarification and/or amendment of the Applicant's acoustic assessment is required to enable completion of the peer review exercise.

[6] The Panel therefore requests the Applicant to provide this information by **close of business Friday, 26 June 2026**. The updated material is to:

- clearly identify all changes made (for example, by way of tracked changes); and
- include any supporting explanation necessary to respond to the technical queries raised.

[7] The updated material will be provided to Mr Humpheson to enable completion of his peer review and any further advice to the Panel.

[8] Any material provided in response to this minute will be published on the Fast-track website, and the Panel will determine whether any further opportunity to comment is required.



Amanda Dewar

Foxton Solar Farm Expert Panel Chair