

From: [Infrastructure Portfolio](#)
To: [Nicola Willis \(MIN\)](#); [Shane Jones \(MIN\)](#); [Paul Goldsmith \(MIN\)](#); [Penny Simmonds \(MIN\)](#); [Tama Potaka \(MIN\)](#); [Simon Watts \(MIN\)](#)
Cc: [FTAreferalls](#)
Subject: Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – FTAA-2504-1041
Date: Monday, 28 April 2025 4:06:07 pm
Attachments: [Template Comments Form for Invited Ministers.docx](#)

To:

Minister for Economic Growth
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister for Energy
Minister for Climate Change
Minister of Conservation
Minister for the Environment

Dear Ministers,

Hon Chris Bishop, the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister), has asked for me to write to you on his behalf.

The Minister has received an application from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process (application reference FTAA-2504-1041).

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

Invitation to comment on referral application

I write in accordance with section 17 of the Act to invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. I have provided summary details of the project below.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received by **return email** within **20 working days** of receipt of this email. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Any comments submitted will contribute to the Minister's decision on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you do not wish to provide comments, please let us know as soon as possible so we can proceed with processing the application without delay.

If a Conflict of Interest is identified through any stage of providing comments, please inform my office immediately so we can initiate a transfer of this responsibility.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Process

The application documents are accessible through the Fast-track portal. Please note that application documents may contain commercially sensitivity information and should not be shared widely. If you haven't used the portal before, you can request access by emailing ftareferalls@mfe.govt.nz. Once you are registered and have accepted the terms and conditions, you will receive a link to view the documents. Existing users will be able to see application documents via the request when logging into the portal. Should you need for your agency to provide any supplementary information, a nominated person can be provided access to the portal, access

can be requested by emailing ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz.

To submit your comments on the application, you can either provide a letter or complete the attached template for written comments and return it by replying to this email, infrastructure.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this email or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz. Further information is available at <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/>.

Project summary

Project name	Southland Wind Farm
Applicant	Contact Energy Limited
Project description	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore. The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region</p> <p>The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually. The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a 'tip height' of up to 220 metres• electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformers• a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Station• a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedin• an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Grid• up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in height• an operations and maintenance building• construction of roading, turbine foundations and "hard stand" areas adjacent to each turbine

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure



Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform,
Minister for Sport & Recreation, Leader of the House, Associate Minister of Finance

Email: christopher.bishop@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Jason Franklin
Chief Executive
PowerNet Limited

Email: enquiries@powernet.co.nz

Dear Jason

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then be able to lodge their substantive application for the approvals they require. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

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Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ilana Miller', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Southland Wind Farm
Applicant name	Contact Energy Limited
Application number	FTAA-2504-1041
Project summary details	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore.</p> <p>The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region. The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually.</p> <p>The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a ‘tip height’ of up to 220 metresb. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformersc. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Stationd. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedine. an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Gridf. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in heightg. an operations and maintenance buildingh. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.

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James Kilty
Chief Executive
Transpower New Zealand Limited

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear James

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the Fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A. The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or discussed anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then be able to lodge their substantive application for the approvals they require. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

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Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Joanne Mooar (Senior Corporate Counsel) - s 9(2)(a)
Daniel Hamilton (Team Leader) - s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Southland Wind Farm
Applicant name	Contact Energy Limited
Application number	FTAA-2504-1041
Project summary details	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore.</p> <p>The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region. The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually.</p> <p>The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a ‘tip height’ of up to 220 metresb. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformersc. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Stationd. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedine. an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Gridf. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in heightg. an operations and maintenance buildingh. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.

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Siobhan Quayle
Acting Fast-track Manager
Department of Conservation

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Jenni

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite the Department of Conservation to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Conservation Act 1987 (including the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983) and the Wildlife Act 1953.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc: FT Team at DOC - Fast-track@doc.govt.nz

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Southland Wind Farm
Applicant name	Contact Energy Limited
Application number	FTAA-2504-1041
Project summary details	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore.</p> <p>The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region. The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually.</p> <p>The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a ‘tip height’ of up to 220 metresb. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformersc. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Stationd. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedine. an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Gridf. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in heightg. an operations and maintenance buildingh. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.

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Deborah Lascelles
Chief Executive
Gore District Council

Email: info@goredc.govt.nz

Dear Deborah

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Gore District Council to provide written comments on the referral application. Under section 17(3) of the Act and without limiting any general comments under subsection (1)(a), Gore District Council must provide comments advising on the following matters:

1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please also confirm this in writing
2. In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections [124C\(1\)\(c\)](#) or [165Z1](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please also confirm this in writing.

Under section 20(1) I also invite you to provide further information on the following matters:

3. Whether the Council considers the project would have significant regional or national benefits, along with any comments on alignment with the relevant District plans, policies, and/or strategies.

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The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

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Appendix A – Project summary details

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Project summary details	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore.</p> <p>The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region. The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually.</p> <p>The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a ‘tip height’ of up to 220 metresb. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformersc. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Stationd. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedine. an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Gridf. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in heightg. an operations and maintenance buildingh. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.

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Peter Richardson
Director Policy
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Peter

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc: HNZPT Fast-track team inbox – fasttrack@heritage.org.nz
Angelica Pablo – s 9(2)(a)

fasttrack.govt.nz | contact@fasttrack.govt.nz | 0800 FASTRK

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Terry Nicholas
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative
Hokonui Rūnanga

Email: hokonui.office@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Tēnā koe Terry

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires consultation with relevant Māori groups identified under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025. For information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fasttrack webpage on [Cost recovery for agencies](#).

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

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Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

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James Palmer
Secretary for the Environment
Ministry for the Environment

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear James

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to seek comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies). I invite the Ministry for the Environment to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for the Resource Management Act 1991.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **20 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will help inform the Minister's consideration in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

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Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc Macaela Flanagan - s 9(2)(a)

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Southland Wind Farm
Applicant name	Contact Energy Limited
Application number	FTAA-2504-1041
Project summary details	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore.</p> <p>The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region. The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually.</p> <p>The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a ‘tip height’ of up to 220 metresb. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformersc. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Stationd. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedine. an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Gridf. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in heightg. an operations and maintenance buildingh. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.

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Cameron McIntosh
Chief Executive
Southland District Council

Email: sdcsouthlanddc.govt.nz

Dear Cameron

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Southland District Council to provide written comments on the referral application. Under section 17(3) of the Act and without limiting any general comments under subsection (1)(a), Southland District Council must provide comments advising on the following matters:

1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please also confirm this in writing
2. In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections [124C\(1\)\(c\)](#) or [165Z1](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please also confirm this in writing.

Under section 20(1) I also invite you to provide further information on the following matters:

3. Whether the Council considers the project would have significant regional or national benefits, along with any comments on alignment with the relevant District plans, policies, and/or strategies.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for consultation under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in confidence and should not be forwarded or comments sought from anyone outside of your organisation.

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing the template for written comments provided in Attachment 1.

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Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

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Wilma Falconer
Chief Executive
Southland Regional Council

Email: services@es.govt.nz

Dear Wilma

Invitation to provide written comments on application for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

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3. Whether the Council considers the project would have significant regional or national benefits, along with any comments on alignment with the relevant regional plans, policies, and/or strategies.

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Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc: Lacey Bragg (Consents Manager) - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Bruce Halligan (Strategic Regulatory Advisor) - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Jan Brown (Executive Officer) - s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Group email for notifications - ESConsents@es.govt.nz

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Dean Whaanga
Te Ao Mārama Incorporated
Kaupapa Taiao Kaiwhakahaere

Email: office@tami.maori.nz

Tēnā koe Dean

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Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Cc – Meriana Pile – s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A: Project summary details

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Michael Stevens
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative
Te Rūnanga o Awarua

Email: office@awaruarunaka.iwi.nz

Tēnā koe Michael

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Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

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Justin Tipa
Chair
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Email: info@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Tēnā koe Justin

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Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc - Amy Beran – s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Ttw@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

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Rewi Davis
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative
Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima

Email: office@orakaaparima.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rewi

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Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

cc – Kasmira Peterson – s 9(2)(a)

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Odele Stehlin
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative
Waihōpai Rūnaka

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Odele

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Nāku noa, nā



Ilana Miller

General Manager, Delivery and Operations

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Cc: info@waihopai.org.nz

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Applicant name	Contact Energy Limited
Application number	FTAA-2504-1041
Project summary details	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore.</p> <p>The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region. The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually.</p> <p>The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a ‘tip height’ of up to 220 metresb. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformersc. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Stationd. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedine. an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Gridf. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in heightg. an operations and maintenance buildingh. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.

Penny Nelson
Director-General of Conservation
Department of Conservation

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Penny

Request for report in relation to the use of Public Conservation Land under Section 19 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 for the Southland Wind Farm project (FTAA-2504-1041)

An application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Contact Energy Limited for referral of the Southland Wind Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process. Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The project includes public conservation land within its project area and requires the following proposed approvals under specified Acts:

- resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991
- archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014
- concession (airspace easement) under the Conservation Act 1987
- approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983
- approval under the Wildlife Act 1953.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 19(1) of the Act to request and obtain a report in relation to the use of public conservation land that is prepared by the Director-General of Conservation.

As specified under Section 19 of the Act, the report must include the following:

1. the existing arrangements (whether formal or informal) for the administration, access to, or use of public conservation land within the project area.
2. advice on the risks to, and potential liabilities of, the Crown that relate to any proposed approvals of the kind described in [section 42\(4\)\(e\), \(f\), \(l\), or \(m\)](#) (concession, land exchange, or access arrangement).
3. if the referral application was required to include information under [paragraph \(q\) or \(r\) of section 13\(4\)](#), advice on the matters set out in the applicable paragraph.

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Please note, as required under section 19(3), the report content related to the existing arrangements and advice on risks and liabilities must be prepared in consultation with every owner, administrator, or manager of the land who is not the Crown.

Please provide the section 19 report no later than 20 working days from receipt of this letter via the portal, or alternatively a template for the report is in Attachment 1. If you do not consider the report can be prepared by that date, please contact ftareferrals@mfe.govt.nz.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this letter or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely



Ilana Miller
General Manager, Delivery and Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details
Attachment 1: Template for report

Cc: FT Team at DOC - Fast-track@doc.govt.nz
Siobhan Quayle (Acting FT Manager) – s 9(2)(a)

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Appendix A – Project summary details

Project name	Southland Wind Farm
Applicant name	Contact Energy Limited
Application number	FTAA-2504-1041
Project summary details	<p>The project is to establish and operate a 250-350 megawatt (MW) wind farm covering 58 square kilometres of privately owned land on Slopedown Hill in eastern Southland, approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Gore.</p> <p>The project area is partly in both the Southland and Gore Districts, and entirely in the Southland Region. The project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power 110,000-150,000 households annually.</p> <p>The project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. construction and operation of up to 55 wind turbines, each up to approximately 7MW in capacity and a ‘tip height’ of up to 220 metresb. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformersc. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Stationd. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedine. an overhead single or double circuit 220kV transmission line between the wind farm substation and the GIP to provide connection to the Transpower National Gridf. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in heightg. an operations and maintenance buildingh. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.

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