

# Hon James Meager

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



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Hon Raynor Asher  
Expert Panel Chair

By email: [substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz)

**Fast-track Approvals Act substantive application – Far North Solar Farm Limited – FTAA 2508-1100**

Dear Raynor

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Far North Solar Farm Limited's substantive application under the *Fast-track Approvals Act 2024* (FTAA 2024) for The Point Solar Farm project.

I understand Far North Solar Farm Ltd has applied to the Environmental Protection Authority for fast-track approval to construct and operate a 450 megawatts peak photovoltaic solar farm on approximately 670 hectares of pastoral leasehold land in the Mackenzie Basin, with connection to the national electricity grid.

I have considered the information provided and its alignment with the priorities of my South Island portfolio. The project's contribution to renewable energy generation and grid-connected supply supports regional and national energy objectives. When fully built, it could provide power to support 100,000 homes and provide energy generation to reduce reliance on hydro during any summer periods. This has the added environmental benefit of keeping more water in the hydro scheme while reducing energy during the high-demand irrigation season.

As the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, I am advised this project has little to no impact on hunting and fishing interests in the area. On that basis, I support this project going ahead.

Yours sincerely

  
**Hon James Meager**  
Minister for the South Island  
Minister for Hunting and Fishing  
Minister for Youth  
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