



Far North Solar Farm Limited

65 Main Road, Kumeu, Auckland 0810
New Zealand

26 February 2026

Hon Raynor Asher KC

Expert Panel Chair
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
c/- Environmental Protection Authority
Level 10, 215 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6011

By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Re: Far North Solar Farm Limited – The Point Solar Farm (FTAA-2509-1100)

Responses to Section 53 Comments

Dear Hon. Raynor Asher KC and Members of the Expert Panel

On behalf of Far North Solar Farm Limited, I thank you and the Panel for the opportunity to respond to the Section 53 comments lodged on 19 February 2026. Your careful consideration of the application, the RFIs issued, and the time afforded to all parties has been greatly appreciated and has enabled FNSF to provide comprehensive, evidence-based updates.

We are particularly grateful to the following Government Ministers for their positive and supportive submissions, which recognise the Project's substantial contribution to South Island and national energy security, renewable generation targets, infrastructure-led growth, and regional resilience:

- Hon James Meager, Minister for the South Island and Minister for Hunting and Fishing (letter of 19 February 2026)
- Hon Simon Watts, Minister for Energy (letter of 16 February 2026)
- Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for the Environment (letter of 16 February 2026)
- Hon Tama Potaka, Minister for Māori Development (letter of 19 February 2026)
- Hon Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and Minister for Infrastructure (letter of 17 February 2026)

Thank-you letters have been sent directly to each Minister and are attached for the Panel's information (see Attachment 18).

We also thank every Section 53 party for the time, expertise and constructive feedback provided in their submissions. Their input has directly informed the finalisation of our February 2026 ecological surveys, management plans, landscape mitigation, and proposed consent conditions.



To assist the Panel, we attach:

Attachment 0 – Index of Section 53 Responses (summary table of every party, key issues raised, and FNSF response, with cross-references to technical evidence).

Detailed responses to each Section 53 party:

- Attachment 18 - Thank-you letters to the five Government Ministers
- Attachment 19 - Response to Mackenzie District Council comments
- Attachment 20 - Response to Mana Whenua comments (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and Te Rūnanga o Waihao)
- Attachment 21 - Response to Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
- Attachment 11 - Response to Environmental Defence Society
- Attachment 23 - Response to Canterbury Regional Council
- Attachment 2 - Response to Transpower New Zealand Limited
- Attachment 7 - NZ Transport Agency email confirming all transport matters resolved
- Attachment 25 - FNSF response to The Department of Conservation

Supporting technical evidence prepared in direct response to Section 53 matters:

- Attachment 22 - Wildlands Consultants memorandum responding to ecological issues (6621h-vi, February 2026)
- Attachment 4 - Rough Milne Mitchell Fast-track S53 Response – Landscape (26 February 2026)
- Attachment 10 - Statement of Evidence of Laila Alkamil (Planning) dated 26 February 2026

These documents collectively address the issues raised, many of which now benefit from the February 2026 fieldwork, finalised draft management plans, strengthened avoidance and mitigation measures, the \$1,000,000 DOC Avifauna Compensation Strategy, and updated proposed consent conditions (to be provided to the Panel on 3 March 2026).

FNSF considers that the updated information places the application and the project in strong alignment with the purpose and requirements of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

We remain available to provide any further clarification as required.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Homewood', is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Homewood

Director

Far North Solar Farm Limited