

File ref: FTAA-2508-1097

10 June 2026

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Tēnā koe

**Request for information in relation to the Haldon Solar application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024**

The Haldon Solar Expert Panel (the Panel) has directed the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to request further information from you under section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), relating to the Haldon Solar application.

The Panel appreciates the prompt and positive response from the Applicant in relation to Minute 18. The Panel also appreciates the prompt and helpful response from the Department of Conservation (DOC).

While most of the responses provide a suitable mechanism for the Panel to move toward decision-making, the Panel holds considerable concern regarding the certainty and enforceability of the proposed condition 115 in relation to avifauna compensation, and the staged and conditional nature of the payment. This concern arises in two elements:

- a) Parts (b) and (c) of the condition refer to the loss of a bird being “as the result of collision with solar farm infrastructure”. The Panel is concerned that this will require significant forensic investigation and be difficult to ascertain in all but the most obvious of circumstances. It is also uncertain who makes this determination or what their qualifications to do so are.
- b) Parts (b) and (c) of the condition are reliant on reliably finding single small bird carcasses. From the Panel’s review of the Proteus report, it would seem difficult to achieve the 95% confidence of finding a single small bird carcass stated in Condition 110(c)(i). As presently stated, the condition is reliant on not finding a bird carcass, and therefore, the consequence of ineffective searches would appear to fall on the birds.

In its response to Minute 18 DOC stated in respect of upfront funding relating to avifauna collision risk for the Haldon Solar Farm, “DOC’s preference would be for a fully upfront approach, as that would be more effective and more commensurate with the costs of species management”.

The Panel reiterates that it considers avifauna collision risk to be an important issue. The uncertainty of the collision monitoring leads it to concur with DOC that an upfront payment of the full amount is the best option. The Panel therefore seeks the Applicant’s response as to whether it is prepared to make its proposed \$1,000,000 upfront payment in a single tranche as proposed by DOC?

### **Supply of Information**

In accordance with section 67(2) of the Act you must:

- a) Provide electronic copies of the information or report requested; or
- b) Advise the EPA, with reasons that you decline to provide the information or report requested.

Accordingly, please provide the requested information to the EPA by **5pm Friday 12 June 2026**. If the information is not received by this date, the Panel will proceed on the basis that the request for further information has been declined.

Please note, the information will be provided to the Panel, the applicant and every person who provided comments on the application. The information will also be made available on the Fast-track website.

If you have any questions, please contact Application Lead, [REDACTED], by email at [info@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fasttrack.govt.nz)

Nāku noa, nā

[REDACTED]

**Application Lead, Fast-track Applications**