

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.

[fasttrack.govt.nz](https://fasttrack.govt.nz) | [contact@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:contact@fasttrack.govt.nz) | 0800 FASTRK

Fast-track referrals are administered on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure by  
The Ministry for the Environment | PO Box 10362 | Wellington 6143, New Zealand | NZBN: 9429041908853

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Fast-track@doc.govt.nz)  
Siobhan Quayle (Acting FT Manager) – s 9(2)(a)

[fasttrack.govt.nz](https://fasttrack.govt.nz) | [contact@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:contact@fasttrack.govt.nz) | 0800 FASTRK

Fast-track referrals are administered on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure by  
The Ministry for the Environment | PO Box 10362 | Wellington 6143, New Zealand | NZBN: 9429041908853

## 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"><li>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 metres</li><li>b. electrical reticulation, consisting of underground cables and wind turbine transformers</li><li>c. a wind farm substation to collect the power generated by the wind turbines, located at Jedburgh Station</li><li>d. a Grid Injection Point (GIP) station located adjacent to the existing Transpower 220 kilovolt (kV) circuit between Invercargill and Dunedin</li><li>e. 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</li><li>f. up to two permanent meteorological masts each up to approximately 140 metres in height</li><li>g. an operations and maintenance building</li><li>h. construction of roading, turbine foundations and “hard stand” areas adjacent to each turbine.</li></ul>

[fasttrack.govt.nz](https://fasttrack.govt.nz) | [contact@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:contact@fasttrack.govt.nz) | 0800 FASTRK

Fast-track referrals are administered on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure by  
The Ministry for the Environment | PO Box 10362 | Wellington 6143, New Zealand | NZBN: 9429041908853