



Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

26 February 2026

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

Tēnā koe Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2026 and for your clear support for the project. FNSF is particularly pleased that you recognise the project's contribution to South Island energy security and its ability to reduce pressure on hydro storage during high-demand irrigation seasons. By generating 450 MWp of daytime solar power immediately adjacent to Benmore, the project enables operators to store water during daylight hours for release in the evening peak and dry-year periods — delivering genuine regional resilience while keeping more water in the lakes.

We also note and appreciate your confirmation that the project has little to no impact on hunting and fishing interests in the area.

The Point Solar Farm aligns strongly with the Government's priorities for infrastructure-led growth and renewable energy in the South Island. We look forward to delivering this nationally significant project while continuing to work constructively with all stakeholders.

We remain available to brief you or your office at any time and will endeavour to keep you informed.

Best regards

Richard Homewood

Richard Homewood
Director
Far North Solar Farm Limited



**Minister for Energy
Hon Simon Watts
Minister for Energy
Parliament Buildings
Wellington**

26 February 2026

Tēnā koe Minister,

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

Thank you for your letter of 16 February 2026 and for your strong endorsement of the project's national benefits.

We are grateful for your recognition that The Point will make a significant contribution to national electricity supply (≈6% of daytime demand), enhance security of supply through diversity of generation in the South Island, exert downward pressure on wholesale prices, and support New Zealand's climate change targets by displacing fossil fuels and enabling greater hydro optimisation.

The project's co-location with Waitaki hydro is particularly powerful: daytime solar allows operators to store water for evening, winter and dry-year peaks, delivering the exact grid-resilience outcome your letter highlights. FNSF has already entered into the TWA for the project and remains committed to seeing the project through to delivery.

FNSF is grateful for your support. We look forward to keeping you informed on developments as we bring this project of national significance to life.

Nāku noa, nā

Richard Homewood

Richard Homewood
Director

Far North Solar Farm Limited



**Minister for the Environment
Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment
Parliament Buildings
Wellington**

26 February 2026

Tēnā koe Minister,

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

Thank you for your letter of 16 February 2026 and for your constructive comments on biodiversity management.

FNSF has now completed the additional February 2026 surveys and finalised all management plans. These directly address the information gaps you identified. We confirm that the draft consent conditions have been strengthened in line with your suggestions and, in several cases, go further:

- Pre-construction lizard and terrestrial invertebrate surveys (including live-trapping where required) will be completed and used to update the Lizard and Terrestrial Invertebrate Management Plans.
- Invertebrate management has been expanded beyond a single species to cover all notable taxa, secured through the 14 ha invertebrate reserve (the largest of its kind proposed in the Mackenzie Basin) and the full Terrestrial Invertebrate Management Plan.
- Avifauna conditions require breeding bird surveys immediately prior to vegetation clearance during the breeding season, with 100 m exclusion zones.
- All management plans include adaptive management provisions requiring updates if higher-value habitats or species are identified.
- Indigenous planting will use only eco-sourced, locally appropriate species and will provide both screening and habitat enhancement, as set out in the Vegetation and Landscape Management Plans.

The February 2026 surveys confirm low indigenous values inside the operational solar farm footprint on this modified cultivated terrace. Higher-value peripheral habitats are avoided or included in the 81 ha Ecological Enhancement Zone. Any residual avifauna risk is addressed through the \$1,000,000 DOC Avifauna Compensation Strategy, which delivers targeted basin-scale benefits.

FNSF is committed to robust environmental management and welcomes the opportunity to work with your officials on final condition wording if required.

We look forward to the Panel's consideration of the project.

Best regards

Richard Homewood

Richard Homewood
Director
Far North Solar Farm Limited

**Minister for Māori Development
Hon Tama Potaka
Minister for Māori Development
Parliament Buildings
Wellington**



26 February 2026

Tēnā koe Minister,

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

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2026 and for your support for the project, subject to the three matters you have identified.

FNSF confirms:

a. Statutory acknowledgements

The proposal respects all statutory acknowledgements, including that for Te Ao Mārama (Lake Benmore) under Schedule 59 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. The February 2026 surveys and management plans demonstrate that the modified terrace makes only a minimal contribution to the acknowledged values, while higher-value peripheral habitats are avoided or enhanced.

b. Impact on taonga species

Taonga species are protected through avoidance (100 m setbacks from river margins and wetlands), on-site mitigation (nest protection, design features to reduce strike risk), and basin-scale compensation via the \$1,000,000 DOC Avifauna Compensation Strategy (predator control, kākī tracking, wetland enhancement). Lizard and invertebrate net gain is delivered through the 14 ha invertebrate reserve and eastern gully corridors.

c. Consultation with Māori

Engagement has been significantly strengthened since November 2025 and FNSF is committed to continuing meaningful engagement throughout the life of the project.

Agreement in principle has been reached on a Kaitiaki Governance Group and Cultural Management Plan, which will be embedded in consent conditions. These mechanisms ensure ongoing mana-to-mana oversight, collaborative drafting of documents, cultural monitoring, capacity building and exploration of equity participation.

FNSF remains committed to a genuine, long-term partnership with Ngāi Tahu Whānui and looks forward to progressing this opportunity

We want to thank you again for taking the time to submit on the project and we look forward to keeping you informed throughout the process.

Nāku noa, nā

Richard Homewood

Richard Homewood
Director

Far North Solar Farm Limited



**Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
and Minister for Infrastructure**

Hon Chris Bishop

**Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister for Infrastructure**

Parliament Buildings

Wellington

26 February 2026

Tēnā koe Minister,

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

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2026 and for your support of infrastructure projects that deliver positive outcomes for New Zealand.

FNSF appreciates your recognition of the project's alignment with the Government's economic growth and infrastructure priorities. We are grateful for your comments regarding the project's national and regional benefits, and its consistency with the NPS-REG.

The Point Solar Farm represents nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure of the kind the FTAA and the amended NPS-REG are intended to enable. With 450 MWp of solar generation co-located with Waitaki hydro, connected to the existing 220 kV network with very low losses, delivering grid resilience and supporting New Zealand's decarbonisation pathway.

We value your continued advocacy for enabling infrastructure of this scale and look forward to progressing The Point Solar Farm in a manner that supports both regional development and national energy for the benefit of New Zealand.

We will keep you informed of project updates as we bring this nationally significant project to life.

We remain available to brief you or your office at any time.

Nāku noa, nā

Richard Homewood

Richard Homewood

Director

Far North Solar Farm Limited