19 June 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Tēnā koe Minister

This letter is provided by the Proprietors of Hauhungaroa 1D3B's Committee of Management.

This letter records the Proprietors of Hauhungaroa 1D3B's agreement in principle to grant an interest in our land to Meridian Energy Limited to facilitate Meridian's Western Bays solar farm development. The interest granted will be by registered easement and leases confirming Meridian's legal right to construct, operate and maintain transmission lines and a grid injection point over and on our land.

We understand that this letter will accompany Meridian's application for referral to use the fast-track process and specifically, that this letter addresses the eligibility requirements of section 5(1)(a)(ii) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

Background

Meridian is in the process of seeking approvals through the fast-track process to develop the Western Bays solar farm and has engaged with the Proprietors as owners of Māori Freehold Land (Part Hauhungaroa 1D3B Block [SA7B/33], at the address 403 State Highway 32 (Western Bay Road), Kuratau).

Meridian proposes to locate part of the Western Bays solar development on our land, namely the transmission line to join the solar farm to the national grid and the grid injection point.

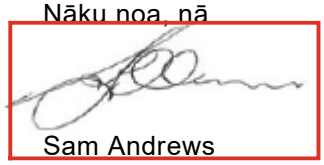
Agreement in principle

The Proprietors passed a resolution at our most recent annual general meeting on 8 May 2026 recording: *"That the Committee of Management may continue negotiations and agree in principle to approving an easement with no less favourable terms as to what was presented to the annual general meeting".*

The Proprietors' understanding and position are that in passing that resolution, agreement has been reached in principle to permit Meridian to construct, operate and maintain transmission lines and grid injection point across and on our land. While the final agreement terms are yet to be concluded, the Proprietors are agreed to easement and lease terms being registered on our land, no less favourable that those attached to this letter and marked as Appendix 1.

The Proprietors' understanding and position are that the resolution amounts to an agreement in writing for Meridian to use our land, for the purposes of section 5(1)(a)(ii) of the Fast-track Act.

Nāku noa, nā



Sam Andrews
Chair of the Committee of Management for Hauhungaroa 1D3B Incorporation