

File ref: FTAA-2508-1097

13 February 2025

Waitaki Rūnanga

By Email:

Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua:

Te Rūnanga o Waihao:

Te Rūnanga o Moeraki:



Tēnā koe

Request for information from Waitaki Rūnanga in relation to the Haldon Solar application under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

The Panel seeks further comment from Waitaki Rūnanga on cultural matters, its relationship with Lodestone Energy (the Applicant), and the proposed conditions involving mana whenua. It 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).

Cultural matters

It is understood that the Applicant recognises that the iwi with recognised kaitiaki responsibilities for the site where they propose to establish a solar farm is Ngāi Tahu. The organisational arm for the tribe is Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT). TRONT has advised that authority for expressing mana whenua rights and expectations sits with local rūnanga (the organisations that represent the hapū of the iwi).

In the Mackenzie Basin that authority is held by Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Waihao me Te Rūnanga o Moeraki (the Waitaki Rūnanga). These rūnanga use their resource management companies to assist them in mana whenua responsibilities: Aoraki Environmental Consultancy AEC) and Aukaha.

The Panel wishes to get the views of Waitaki rūnanga on the concept of a Kaitiaki Forum.

The Panel would appreciate the response of the Waitaki rūnanga to the following questions:

- 1) Can Waitaki rūnanga verify how and when they have met with Lodestone Energy Limited over the last 12 months?

- 2) Can Waitaki rūnanga or their environmental companies please clarify what discussions were held if one or more meetings were held?
- 3) What is the response of rūnanga to the concept of a Kaitiaki Forum and on the current proposed scope of the Forum?
- 4) Does the Waitaki rūnanga wish to have further input into how the proposed Forum will be established and administered?

Please provide the further information to the EPA by **23 February 2026**.

If the information requested is not received, the Panel must proceed as if the request for further information has been declined.

Please note, the information will be provided to the Panel, 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

Nāku noa, nā

[REDACTED]

Application Lead