



Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Treaty settlements and other obligations (Section 18) report

Project Name: FTAA-2510-1121 Foxton Solar Farm

To:	Date:
Panel Convener, Jane Borthwick	30 March 2026

Number of attachments: 3	Attachments: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 20242. Project location map3. List of relevant Māori groups
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Ministry for the Environment contacts:

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
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Key points

1. As required by section 49 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), the Ministry for the Environment (on behalf of the Secretary for the Environment) has prepared this report on Treaty settlements and other obligations (section 18 of the Act) in relation to the substantive application FTAA-2510-1121 Foxton Solar Farm.
2. The applicant, Genesis Energy Limited, is proposing to construct and operate an approximately 220 MW solar farm on a 436-hectare site east of State Highway 1 at Motuiti, roughly 4km north of Foxton and 23 km southwest of Palmerston North.
3. The project area is not located in or adjacent to the marine and coastal area and does not include any identified Māori land. However, several parcels of Māori land adjoin the project area including a marae and urupā. The applicant has a lease agreement with the relevant landowners to construct and operate a solar farm. The applicant is seeking a range of resource consents under the Act that would otherwise be sought under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). No other approvals are being sought.
4. Section 18(2) of the Act requires that the report provide a list of relevant Māori groups, including relevant iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities. Many of those groups must be invited by the panel to comment on a substantive application under section 53(2) of the Act.

5. We have identified Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc as relevant Treaty settlement entity/iwi authorities, Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust as a relevant Treaty settlement entity, and Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated, Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc as relevant iwi authorities. We have also identified Ngāti Tūranga hapū, Ngāti Te Au hapū, Ngāti Rākau hapū and the owners of adjoining identified Māori land as other Māori groups which may have an interest in the application. We have listed these groups at **Attachment 3**.
6. The relevant Treaty settlements are the Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010, Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014, and Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016. No other obligations (such as Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements) have been identified under section 18(2) as relevant to the project area.
7. The Rangitāne o Manawatu Claims Settlement Act 2018 includes a statutory acknowledgement over Manawatū River and its tributaries. While the project area is located entirely within the Manawatū River statutory area, the statutory acknowledgement does not apply to the on-site farm drains as they are artificial watercourses.
8. However, if the panel receives information that the project would directly affect the downstream receiving environment within the statutory area, then it brings the statutory acknowledgement into play. We consider the process of inviting comment from Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust (including providing information about the application) under the Act is comparable to the process under a Treaty settlement and the RMA of providing those who hold statutory acknowledgements with a summary of the application (and having regard to statutory acknowledgements when considering who is an affected person for the purposes of limited notification of a resource consent application).

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Frame', is written over a light blue grid background.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Manager Fast-track Operations

Introduction

9. For a substantive application that relates to a listed project, under section 49 of the Act, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) must request a report from the responsible agency (Secretary for the Environment) that is prepared in accordance with section 18(2) and (3)(a) of the Act (but does not contain the matters in section 18(2)(l) and (m)).
10. The information which must be provided in this report includes:
 - a. relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (MACA), and other Māori groups with interests in the project area; and
 - b. relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements.
11. This report is structured accordingly. We have provided a list of the relevant provisions of section 18 at **Attachment 1**.

Proposed project

12. The applicant, Genesis Energy Limited, is proposing to construct and operate an approximately 220 MW solar farm on a 436-hectare site east of State Highway 1 at Motuiti, roughly 4km north of Foxton and 23 km southwest of Palmerston North. The solar farm would supply electricity to the national grid and generate approximately 345 GWh per year of renewable electricity. This will be enough to power the equivalent of 47,000 homes annually. The site is currently used for dairy farming and stock grazing. The solar farm will consist of solar panels and power generation equipment arranged in rows across the site with a battery energy storage system. The renewable electricity generated will be connected to the National Grid via a new on-site substation and connection assets.
13. The applicant is seeking resource consents under the Act that would otherwise be sought under the RMA, which may include development of a commercial scale solar farm, earthworks, vegetation clearance, land disturbance, subdivision, storage of hazardous substances, substation and network utility components, electricity conveyance structures exceeding 110kV, noise, activities within 10m of a wetland, and other matters. No approvals are being sought under other Acts in the application.
14. The applicant has a lease agreement with the owners of the land on which the project is proposed to construct and operate a solar farm. There is no identified Māori land within the project area, however, several parcels of identified Māori land directly adjoin the project area. Motuiti Pā (marae) and urupā are located close to the northwestern perimeter of the site.
15. We have provided location maps at **Attachment 2**.

Relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, and other Māori groups

16. We note that some entities identified below may be included in more than one category. We have included a composite list of all groups at **Attachment 3**, including contact details.¹

¹ These are the contact details we could locate in the time available, and in some cases they will be the generic email address for the entity.

Iwi authorities

17. Under section 4(2) of the Act, 'iwi authority' has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the RMA:

the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so.

18. We consider the following groups to be the relevant iwi authorities for the project area:

- a. Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated, representing Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga;
- b. Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust, representing Rangitāne o Manawatū;
- c. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc, representing Ngāti Toa Rangatira;
- d. Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc, representing Muaūpoko; and
- e. Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust, representing Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.

Treaty settlement entities

19. Under section 4(1) of the Act, "Treaty settlement entity" means any of the following:

(a) a post-settlement governance entity (PSGE):

(b) a board, trust, committee, authority, or other body, incorporated or unincorporated, that is recognised in or established under any Treaty settlement Act:

(c) an entity or a person that is authorised by a Treaty settlement Act to act for a natural resource feature with legal personhood:

(d) Te Ohu Kai Moana or a mandated iwi organisation (as those terms are defined in section 5(1) of the Maori Fisheries Act 2004):

(e) an iwi aquaculture organisation (as defined in section 4 of the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004).

20. Under the Act, a PSGE:

(a) means a body corporate or the trustees of a trust established, for the purpose of receiving redress in the Treaty settlement of a claimant group,—

(i) by that group; or

(ii) by or under an enactment or order of a court; and

(b) includes—

(i) an entity established to represent a collective or combination of claimant groups; and

(ii) an entity controlled by an entity referred to in paragraph (a); and

(iii) an entity controlled by a hapū to which redress has been transferred by an entity referred to in paragraph (a).

21. In keeping with the procedural principles outlined at section 10 of the Act, we only identify those PSGEs which are specified in the relevant Treaty settlement Act or Treaty settlement deed.²
22. We have identified the following relevant Treaty settlement entities for this project area:
- a. Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust, PSGE for Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010;
 - b. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc, PSGE Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014; and
 - c. Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust, PSGE for Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016.

Groups mandated to negotiate Treaty settlements

23. The following group has a recognised mandate to negotiate a Treaty settlement over an area which may include the project area and is in the early stages of negotiating their Treaty settlements with the Crown:
- a. Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc, representing Muaūpoko.
24. We note that Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga does not currently have a recognised mandate but is part of the Waitangi Tribunal Porirua ki Manawatū district inquiry (Wai 2200) covering land loss, public works, and environmental damage to sites such as Lake Horowhenua. The inquiry district includes the project area.

Takutai Moana groups and ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou

25. The project area does not include the common marine and coastal area, and accordingly there are no relevant applicant groups under MACA, and no court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.
26. The project area is not within ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (as set out in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).

Iwi or hapū whose practices are recognised under the Fisheries Act 1996 through regulation or bylaws

27. The project area does not include a taiāpure-local fisheries area, mātaihai reserve, or area subject to a bylaw or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Owners of identified Māori land where electricity infrastructure or land transport infrastructure is proposed

28. Section 23 of the Act provides that, in making a decision on a referral application under section 21, the Minister may determine that, for the purposes of the project, an activity described in section 5(1)(a) is not an ineligible activity if it:
- a. is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure by (or to be operated by) a network utility operator that is a requiring authority; and

² Should a panel be made aware of a Treaty settlement entity established after the Treaty settlement Act is enacted (e.g. on the advice of a PSGE), then there would appear to be nothing to prevent the panel from inviting that entity to comment on the application under section 53(2)(c) of the Act.

- b. would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land.
29. This project does not involve an activity described in section 23(1) (i.e. including both (a) and (b)) of the Act.
30. As previously noted, several parcels of identified Māori land directly adjoin the project area, which are indicated on Map 4 at **Attachment 2**.

Iwi authorities and groups representing hapū who are party to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements

31. If the project area is within the boundaries of either a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreement, and the application includes a proposed RMA approval described in section 42(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation), we are required to identify the relevant iwi authority/group that represent hapū that are parties to these arrangements.
32. We have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area, and accordingly there no parties to these arrangements to identify.

Any other Māori groups with relevant interests

33. In addition to the above groups, we have also identified the following Māori groups as having relevant interests in the project area:
- a. Ngāti Tūranga hapū;
 - b. Ngāti Te Au hapū;
 - c. Ngāti Rākau hapū; and
 - d. the following owners of identified Māori land:
 - i. Himatangi 5A9C2 Trust;
 - ii. Himatangi 5A5B Trust;
 - iii. Himatangi 5A5C2B Trust;
 - iv. Himatangi 5 Trust;
 - v. Himatangi 4C3 Trust;
 - vi. Himatangi 3A3E Trust;
 - vii. Himatangi 7 Whanau Trust;
 - viii. Jean Rarangi Kipa Whanau Trust; and
 - ix. the owners of Himatangi 5A9B Block.

Relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements

Treaty settlements

34. Under section 4(1) of the Act, a Treaty settlement includes both a Treaty settlement Act and a Treaty settlement deed which is signed by both the Crown and representatives of a group of Māori.

35. The following Treaty settlements relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area:
- a. Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010;
 - b. Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014; and
 - c. Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016.

Relevant principles and provisions

36. Section 7 of the Act requires all persons exercising powers and functions under the Act to act in a manner consistent with Treaty settlements. The relevant principles and provisions for each of these settlements are set out below.

Crown acknowledgements and apologies

37. The Crown offers acknowledgements and an apology to relevant groups as part of Treaty settlement redress to atone for historical wrongs that breached te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, to restore honour, and begin the process of healing.
38. As part of its apologies to Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and Rangitāne o Manawatū, the Crown stated that it looked forward to building a new relationship with these groups based on co-operation, mutual trust, and respect for te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. The redress mechanisms provided for in Treaty settlements should be viewed in the context of these intentions.

Statutory acknowledgment and deed of recognition

39. The Rangitāne o Manawatu Claims Settlement Act 2018 provides for a statutory acknowledgement and deed of recognition over the Manawatū River and its tributaries. The project area lies entirely within the statutory area of this statutory acknowledgement.
40. The application information indicates the project area is crossed by many farm drains that flow in an east or west direction away from the centre of the site, which ultimately discharge to the Manawatū River via drainage channels and creeks a considerable distance from the project area.
41. The applicant states that “All watercourses on the site are farm drainage canals which are explicitly listed as being an artificial water course” in relation to the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council One Plan (regional plan) definition of artificial watercourses.³
42. Section 38 of the Rangitāne o Manawatu Claims Settlement Act 2018 states that the provisions relating to statutory acknowledgements and deeds of recognition do not apply to artificial watercourses. Furthermore, there is no land owned or managed by the Crown within the project area in respect of the deed of recognition. Therefore, the farm drains in the project area, being artificial watercourses, are not subject to the statutory acknowledgement and deed of recognition over the Manawatū River and its tributaries.

³ The Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council One Plan defines “artificial watercourse” as a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water that does not meet the definition of river in section 2 of the RMA. For the purposes of this Plan, it includes an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for hydroelectricity power generation and farm drainage canal; but excludes a non-natural lake. Section 2 (Interpretation) of the RMA defines “river” as a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water; and includes a stream and modified watercourse; but does not include any artificial watercourse (including an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity power generation, and farm drainage canal).

43. However, if the panel receives information that the project would directly affect the downstream receiving environment within the statutory area, then it brings the statutory acknowledgement into play. We consider the process of inviting comment from Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust (including providing information about the application) under the Act is comparable to the process under a Treaty settlement and the RMA of providing those who hold statutory acknowledgements with a summary of the application (and having regard to statutory acknowledgements when considering who is an affected person for the purposes of limited notification of a resource consent application).

Manawatu River Catchment Advisory Board

44. The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for the establishment of the Manawatu River Catchment Advisory Board (the Advisory Board). The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide advice to the Manawatū–Whanganui Regional Council in relation to freshwater management issues concerning the Manawatu River catchment. If the Advisory Board and the Regional Council agree in writing, the Advisory Board may provide advice to the Regional Council on any other matter. This could include advice on resource consents such as those sought for the Foxton Solar Farm.

45. The Advisory Board, which is yet to be established, is to be comprised of one member each appointed by Rangitāne o Manawatu Settlement Trust, Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust, and representatives of iwi who become entitled to appoint a member under another enactment i.e. other settlement legislation.

46. As the Manawatu River Catchment Advisory Board is yet to be established, there is no advice or comments to consider in respect of the Advisory Board at this time.

47. Ultimately, iwi and hapū are likely to have cultural associations with ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga beyond what is specifically identified in a Treaty settlement or other arrangements. Local tangata whenua and their representatives would be best placed to advise on such matters in the first instance.

Customary Marine Title/Protected Customary Rights

48. As noted above, the project area is not within a customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or within or adjacent to ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou.

Taiāpure-local fisheries/mātaitai reserves/areas subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996

49. As noted above, the project area does not include a taiāpure-local fishery, mātaitai reserve, or area subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe/Joint management agreement

50. As noted above, we have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area.

Consultation with departments

51. In preparing this report, we are required to consult relevant departments. We sought advice from Te Puni Kōkiri and the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana – Te Tari Whakatau regarding the relevant Māori groups, and have incorporated their views into this report.

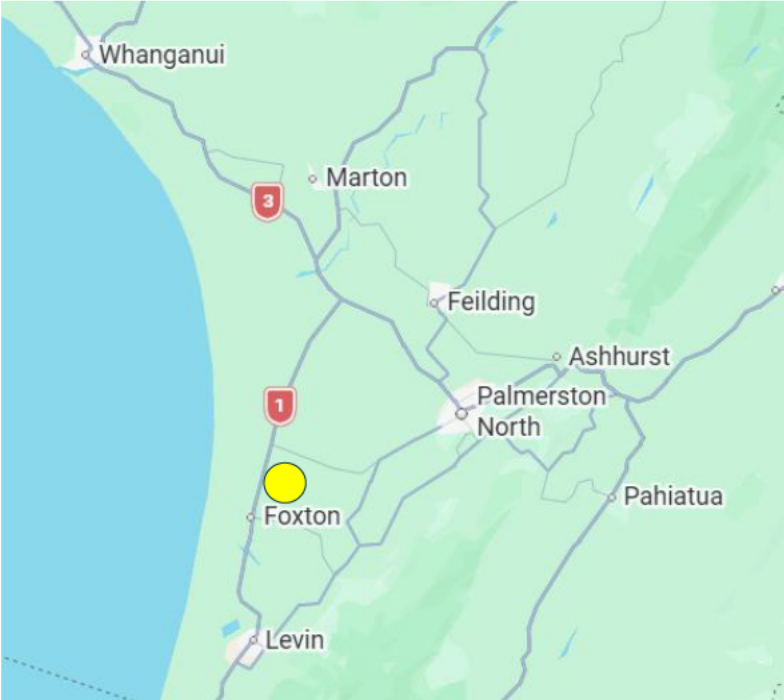
Attachment 1: Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Section	Information required	Paragraph reference in this report
18(1)	The Minister must, for a referral application, obtain and consider a report that is prepared by the responsible agency in accordance with this section.	Not applicable to substantive applications – section 18 report is required by section 49.
18(2)(a)	Any relevant iwi authorities and relevant Treaty settlement entities	18, 22
18(2)(b)	Any Treaty settlements that relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area	35
18(2)(c)	The relevant principles and provisions in those Treaty settlements, including those that relate to the composition of a decision-making body for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991	37-44
18(2)(d)	Any recognised negotiation mandates for, or current negotiations for, Treaty settlements that relate to the project area.	23
18(2)(e)	Any court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.	25, 45
18(2)(f)	Any applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 that seek recognition of customary marine title or protected customary rights within the project area.	25, 45
18(2)(g)	Whether the project area would be within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (and, if so, the relevant provisions of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).	26, 45
18(2)(h)	Whether the project area includes any taiāpure-local fisheries, mātaimai reserves, or areas that are subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (and, if so, who the tangata whenua are).	27, 46
18(2)(i)	Whether the project involves an activity that could be the subject of a determination under 23 (and, if so, who the owners of the land are).	29
18(2)(j)	If the proposed approvals include an approval described in any of section 42C(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation),	32, 47

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to any relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements. (ii) The relevant principles and provisions in those Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and joint management agreements. 	
18(2)(k)	Any other Māori groups with relevant interests.	33
18(2)(l)	<p>A summary of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) comments received by the Minister after inviting comments from Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) and (e); (ii) any further information received by the Minister from those groups 	Not applicable to substantive applications
18(2)(m)	The responsible agency's advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in this section, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.	Not applicable to substantive applications
18(3)	<p>In preparing the report required by this section, the responsible agency must—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) consult relevant departments; and (b) provide a draft of the report to the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti. 	48 (section 18(3)(a))
18(4)	Those Ministers must respond to the responsible agency within 10 working days after receiving the draft report	Not applicable to substantive applications

Attachment 2: Project location maps

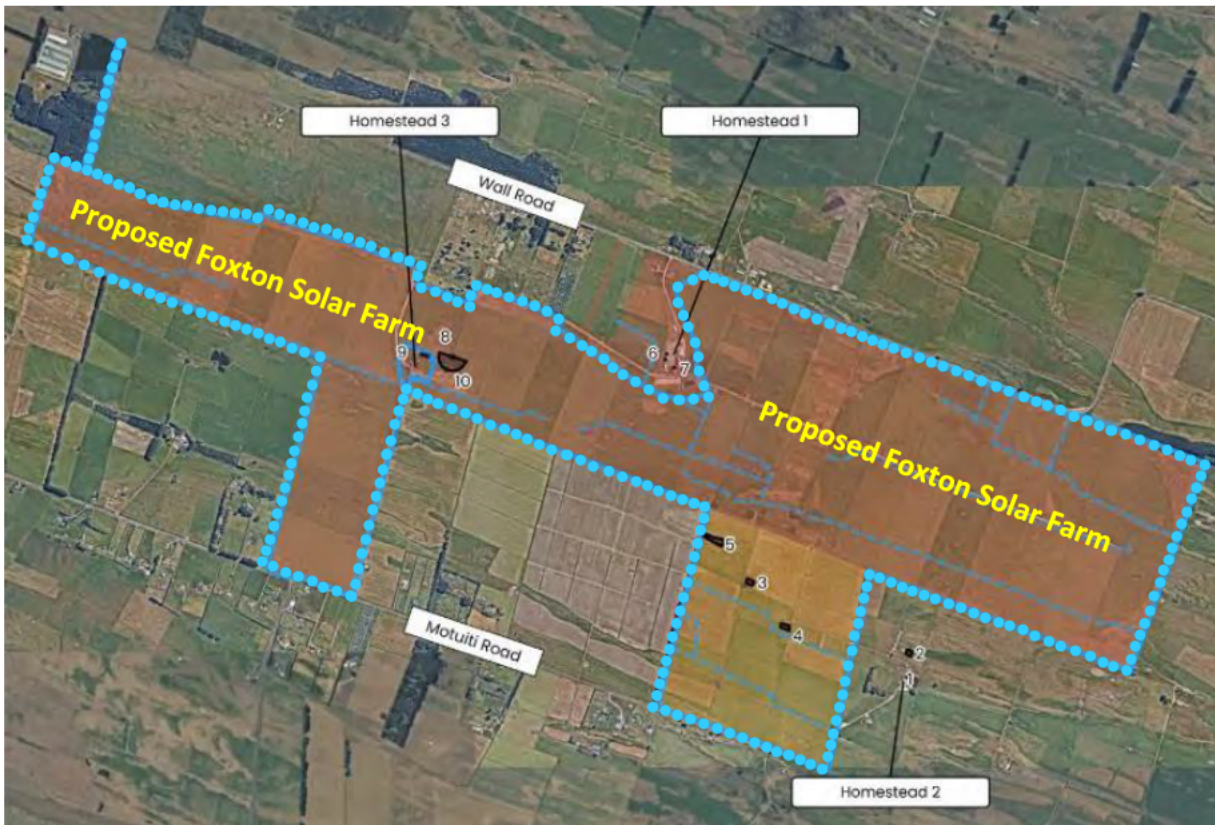
Map 1. Location of proposed Foxton Solar Farm shown by yellow circle below.



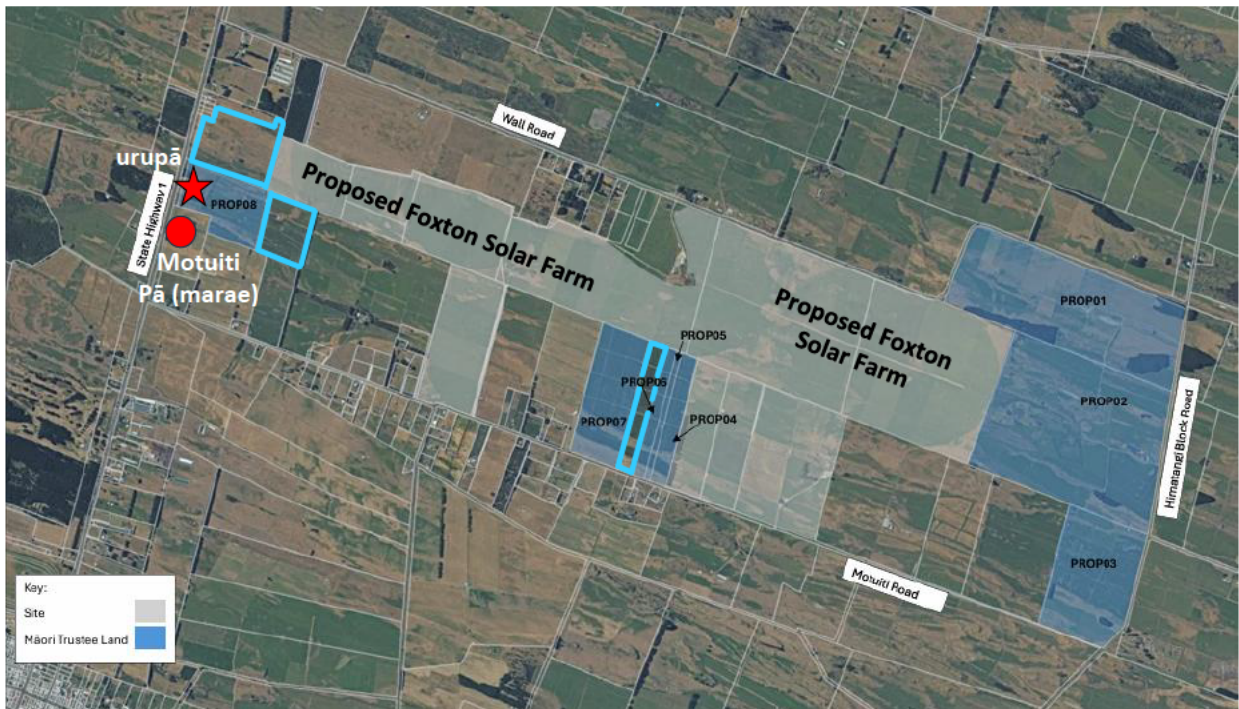
Map 2. Local area – location of proposed Foxton Solar Farm indicated by red marking below.



Map 3. Footprint of proposed Foxton Solar Farm indicated by blue marking below.



Map 4. Māori Trustee land (blue shading) and other identified Māori land (light blue outline) directly adjoining proposed Foxton Solar Farm (grey shading). Note proximity of the project area in relation to Motuiti Pā (red circle) and urupā (red star).



Attachment 3: List of relevant Māori groups

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)	Contact persons	Contact email
Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016	Kahurangi Hapi-Tangaroa (Pou Taiao)	[REDACTED]
Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))	Danielle Harris (CEO)	[REDACTED]
Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014	Debbie Rene	[REDACTED]
Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010	Chris Shenton	[REDACTED]
Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))	Di Rump (CEO)	[REDACTED]
Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))	Freeman Paul (CEO)	[REDACTED]
Ngāti Tūranga hapū	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ngāti Te Au hapū	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Ngāti Rākau hapū	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	████████████████████
Himatangi 5A9C2 Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████████████ ██████████████ ██████████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	
Himatangi 5A5B Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████████ ██████████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	
Himatangi 5A5C2B Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████████ ██████████ ██████████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	
Himatangi 5 Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	

Himatangi 4C3 Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	
Himatangi 3A3E Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	
Himatangi 7 Whanau Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████ ██████████ ██████████	██ ██████████
Jean Rarangi Kipa Whanau Trust	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	██ ██████████
The owners of Himatangi 5A9B Block	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	██████████	██ ██████████