

FTAA-2509-1100

5 November 2025

Penny Nelson  
Director-General of Conservation  
Department of Conservation  
C/- Fast-track team  
By email: [Fast-track@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Fast-track@doc.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe

### **Request for advice and reports under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024**

Far North Solar Farm Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 26 September 2025. The Point Solar Farm application relates to the construction and operation of a solar farm across approximately 670 hectares and also involves connecting and supplying electricity to the national grid.

The EPA has decided that the application is complete and in scope under section 46 of the Act and provided the application to the panel convener. The substantive application seeks an approval for a concession under section 42(4)(e) of the Act.

Under section 51 of the Act, the panel convener has now directed the EPA to obtain from the Director-General of Conservation the following reports:

- In respect of the concession on land that is vested in the Crown under section 42(4)(e) of the Act, a report prepared by the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with clause 4 of Schedule 6 of the Act:
- The panel convener has also directed the EPA to obtain advice from the Department of Conservation in respect of the following:
- Pursuant to section 51(1) of the Act, the Director-General of Conservation is to file a report advising how the weighting of matters set out in Schedule 6, clause 4 of the Act should be approached, with regard to relevant senior court decisions.
- Pursuant to section 51(2)(c) of the Act, if the Director-General of Conservation does not agree with, or wish to expand upon, the expert and planning assessment lodged in support of the concessions, she must file a report in accordance with Schedule 6, clause 4.

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For the avoidance of doubt, the Director-General of Conservation:

- may confirm and append advice previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project; and
- does not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if they concur with the expert and planning assessments filed by the applicant.

The Director-General of Conservation is to respond to the draft terms or conditions proposed, track changing any amendments. Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to the persons listed in section 51(5). It would assist the panel convener if the Director-General is able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference.

The panel convener has issued a Minute dated 5 November 2025 which outlines the panel convener's directions in more detail. The Minute is attached as Appendix 1 to this letter.

The Department of Conservation must provide the reports within 10 working days after the panel invites comments in accordance with section 51(4)(a) of the Act.

If you have any questions please contact Keely Paler, Application Lead, by email at [info@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fasttrack.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Keely Paler

Application Lead, Fast-track Applications