

27 February 2026

Hon Raynor Asher KC
The Point Solar Farm Expert Panel Chair
Fast Track Approvals
Environmental Protection Authority
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Tēnā koe Honourable Raynor Asher,

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu response to Minute 5 of the Expert Panel- The Point Solar Project [FTAA-2508-1100]

- 1.1 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (**Te Rūnanga**) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the further ecological survey information and associated draft ecological management plans submitted by Far North Solar Farm (FNSF) to the Expert Panel on 23 February 2026 for the Point Solar Project in Te Manahuna (Mackenzie Basin) (the **Project**).
- 1.2 Te Rūnanga supports the comments made by Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki (**Kā Rūnaka**), together with their Regional Environmental Entities, Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited (AECL) and Aukaha.
- 1.3 Specifically, Te Rūnanga support the collaboration of expertise enabled through FNSF and Wildland Consultants (as the ecological experts engaged by FNSF) working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) toward the development of a comprehensive ecological enhancement approach.
- 1.4 While Te Rūnanga has not yet received the full suite of documents necessary to understand the overall ecological enhancement approach in its entirety, and therefore does not have a complete understanding of all proposed ecological responses, based on the information provided to date in the draft ecological management plans (including the draft Mammal Pest Management Plan and Lizard Management Plan), Te Rūnanga supports the proposed enhancement actions. These include the creation of a 14-hectare reserve for invertebrate species (the Point Grasshopper Reserve) and habitat enhancement work for lizard species, including the creation of at least 16 habitat corridors.
- 1.5 Notwithstanding this support, and as detailed in Te Rūnanga comments made on the substantive application for the Project (dated 19 February 2026), if the ecological enhancement approach results in larger areas around the border of the site (i.e. within the

82-hectare area) remaining unplanted, with smaller areas being more intensively planted instead, it would be useful to understand whether and how this may affect the proposed management of stormwater onsite.

- 1.6 As stated in Haigh Workman Ltd's response to the Expert Panel's Request for Further Information 1 (RFI 1), control of the peak flow rates is achieved through the planting of 89 hectares of farmland with low lying native plants around the border of the site.
- 1.7 Te Rūnanga understands that further information relating to the broader enhancement approach, including any additional management plans or revisions to proposed onsite planting within the larger 82-hectare area is anticipated to be provided by FNSF. Te Rūnanga looks forward to reviewing that material once it becomes available.

Future Engagement with Far North Solar Farm

- 1.8 Te Rūnanga confirms that an in-person (kanohi ki te kanohi) meeting between Far North Solar Farm, Kā Rūnaka, their Regional Environmental Entities and Te Rūnanga is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 4 March 2026 at the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu offices in Ōtautahi. It is anticipated that this meeting will enable further discussion of the matters raised in the comments made by Kā Rūnaka (through their Regional Environmental Entities) and Te Rūnanga on the substantive application, including the establishment of a Kaitiaki Governance Group (KGG) and a Cultural Monitoring/Management Programme through consent conditions, to support ongoing mana whenua involvement in project implementation and in the protection and enhancement of cultural values (should consent be granted).

Nāku noa nā,



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