

Far North Solar Farm Limited  
65 Main Road, Kumeū, Auckland 0810  
New Zealand



**09<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Hon Raynor Asher KC**

Expert Panel Chair  
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024  
c/- Environmental Protection Authority  
Level 10, 215 Lambton Quay  
Wellington 6011

**By email: [substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz)**

**Re: Response to Request for Further Information 4 – The Point Solar Farm application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (File ref: FTAA-2509-1100)**

Dear Hon. Raynor Asher KC

I am writing on behalf of Far North Solar Farm Limited (FNSF) to submit our response to the Panel's Request for Further Information dated 6 March 2026, pursuant to section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

The attached document provides a detailed account of the outcome of the hui held on 4 March 2026 with representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Ltd (AEC), and Aukaha. This includes an overview of the discussions, agreements reached, and the status of ongoing matters between the parties.

We confirm that all requested information has been provided. Engagement with mana whenua remains ongoing and positive, with next steps including alignment on conditions with Lodestone Energy and a tripartite hui scheduled for 16 March 2026.

The appendix attached to our response is as follows:

- Appendix 1: Meeting Minutes Email – Recent Hui on The Point Solar Farm (dated 5 March 2026)
- Appendix 2: Email Correspondence - Recap of Draft Conditions Discussion Email (dated 9 March 2026)

Should the Panel require any further clarification, additional details, or wish to discuss any aspect of this response, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. We remain available to support the Panel in its deliberations and look forward to progressing the application.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Homewood', written over a horizontal line.

**Richard Homewood**

Director  
Far North Solar Farm Limited



## **Response to Request for Further Information Dated 6 March 2026**

### **1) Outcome of Hui of 4 March 2026**

Far North Solar Farm Limited (FNSF) participated in a constructive hui on 4 March 2026 with representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Ltd (AEC), and Aukaha. The hui was held to discuss matters related to the application, building on prior engagements and focusing on consent conditions, cultural considerations, and partnership opportunities.

The hui was attended by the following individuals: Ally Crane (AEC), Tim Vial (Aukaha), Amy Beran (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu), Deidre Francis (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu), Kylie Hall (AEC), Trevor McGlinchey (Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua), Richard Stevenson (Te Rūnanga o Waihao), Laila Alkamil (WWLA, on behalf of FNSF), Richard Homewood (FNSF), and John Andrews (FNSF).

Key discussions centered on the following:

- FNSF expressed appreciation for the Kaitiaki Governance Group (KGG) and Cultural Monitoring Programme (CMP) conditions provided by mana whenua. FNSF confirmed broad comfort with the approach and committed to incorporating further feedback into the revised condition set.
- FNSF updated on incorporation of the Expert Panel's feedback from Minute #7 (dated 2 March 2026), including plans to meet with Lodestone Energy on 9 March 2026 to align conditions across the Haldon and The Point projects. An updated condition set will be shared with mana whenua following this session.
- Both parties agreed to a tripartite hui on 16 March 2026 involving FNSF, Lodestone Energy, and mana whenua to review and provide feedback on the updated conditions.
- The structure of revised conditions was discussed, emphasising clear links between consent conditions and management plans, with defined and measurable outcomes.
- Agreement was reached that the KGG would receive management plans prior to certification by Environment Canterbury (ECan) or Mackenzie District Council, enabling feedback from the KGG to be incorporated into final management plans.
- Mana whenua queried the definition and implementation of avifauna compensation triggers. FNSF clarified that the Avifauna Compensation Strategy (ACS) would be implemented irrespective of fatalities, with further details on thresholds and response measures to be provided in an end-of-March presentation, revised conditions, and amended Avifauna Management Plan.



- Mana whenua requested that revised conditions highlight similarities and differences between the Haldon and The Point projects. FNSF agreed to outline these in the updated set.

Subsequent to the hui, on 9 March 2026, FNSF received an email from Amy Beran (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu) providing a recap of draft conditions based on recent discussions, including the 4 March hui (attached as Appendix 2). This recap broadly supports the intent of key mana whenua-specific conditions (e.g., KGG and CMP), common conditions (e.g., 35-year consent duration, decommissioning with notice to the KGG, Accidental Discovery Protocol, and stormwater management to avoid discharges to Lake Benmore/Te Ao Mārama), and other areas such as avifauna (with a preference for species-targeted compensation), ecology, and landscape conditions. It notes that further refinements may be needed, particularly in alignment with management plans and outcomes of interest to the KGG/Papatipu Rūnanga and expresses interest in discussing these at an upcoming meeting next week. This correspondence further demonstrates the constructive and collaborative ongoing engagement between the parties.

This hui builds on previous engagements, including those referenced in our response to RFI #2 (dated 23 February 2026), and supports the development of a long-term, trust-based relationship with mana whenua.

**Appendix 1: Meeting Minutes Email – Recent Hui on The Point Solar Farm (dated 5 March 2026)**

**Appendix 2: Email Correspondence - Recap of Draft Conditions Discussion Email (dated 9 March 2026)**



Richard Homewood &lt;richard@fnsf.co.nz&gt;

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## Meeting Minutes - Recent Hui on The Point Solar Farm 4/3/26

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Richard Homewood [REDACTED] 5 March 2026 at 12:06  
To: Ally Crane [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
Cc: John Andrews [REDACTED], Laila Alkamil [REDACTED]

Kia ora everyone

Thank you for your time in our recent hui. We appreciated the productive discussion and the continued commitment to building a strong partnership.

We have summarised our key takeaways from the hui below. If you could please let us know if we have captured the key points accurately, or if there is anything you feel we have missed, that would be helpful. As with previous engagements, we aim to ensure alignment on these summaries.

Attendees: Ally Crane, Tim Vial, Amy Beran, Deidre Francis, Kylie Hall, Trevor McGlinchey, Richard Stevenson, Laila Alkamil Richard Homewood, John Andrews.

### Key Discussion Points:

- FNSF thanked mana whenua for providing the Kaitiaki Governance Group (KGG) and Cultural Monitoring Programme (CMP) conditions. We reiterated that we are broadly comfortable with the proposed approach and will incorporate further feedback into our revised condition set.
- FNSF confirmed that we have taken on board the feedback from the Expert Panel in Minute 7 and will be meeting with Lodestone next Monday to align on conditions across the projects. We will share an updated condition set with mana whenua following this alignment session.
- Both parties agreed that a tripartite hui involving FNSF, Lodestone, and mana whenua on Monday, March 16, would be beneficial to discuss any feedback on the updated conditions.
- We discussed the structure of the revised conditions, which will provide a clear link between consent conditions and updated management plans, ensuring that outcomes are clearly defined and measurable.
- FNSF and mana whenua agreed that the KGG would receive management plans ahead of certification by ECAN or Mackenzie District Council, allowing the KGG to provide feedback on those plans.
- Mana whenua raised a query regarding how avifauna compensation triggers would be defined and implemented in practice. FNSF clarified that the Avifauna Compensation Strategy (ACS) would be implemented regardless of whether fatalities occur.
- FNSF confirmed that further details on thresholds and response measures will be provided in the end-of-March presentation, as well as in the revised conditions and amended Avifauna Management Plan.
- Mana whenua requested that the revised conditions clearly identify similarities and differences between the Haldon and The Point projects. FNSF agreed to endeavor to outline these in the updated set.

### Next Steps:

- FNSF to meet with Lodestone next Monday to align on conditions.
- Share updated condition set with mana whenua following the alignment session.
- Schedule tripartite hui for March 16 to review and discuss feedback on conditions.
- Provide details on avifauna thresholds and measures during the end-of-March presentation and in the revised documents.

We look forward to your feedback on this summary and to continuing our collaborative efforts.

Best regards,

**Richard Homewood.**

Director

E. [REDACTED] | M. [REDACTED] | W. fnsf.co.nz



Far North Solar Farm Ltd  
Level 1 Office, 65 Main  
Road,  
Kumeu, Auckland 0810



Richard Homewood &lt;richard@fnsf.co.nz&gt;

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## Recap of draft conditions discussion

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Amy Beran &lt;Amy.Beran@ngaitahu.iwi.nz&gt;

9 March 2026 at 12:06

To: John Andrews <john@fnsf.co.nz>, Richard Homewood <richard@fnsf.co.nz>, Naomi Humbles <nhumbles@lodestoneenergy.co.nz>, Brad Henderson <bhenderson@lodestoneenergy.co.nz>, Laila Alkamil <laila.alkamil@wwla.kiwi>, Daniel Cunningham <dcunningham@lodestoneenergy.co.nz>  
Cc: Deidre Francis <Deidre.Francis@ngaitahu.iwi.nz>, tim <tim@aukaha.co.nz>, Kylie Hall <kyliehall@aecltd.co.nz>, Ally Crane <allycrane@aecltd.co.nz>

Kia ora koutou,

Apologies for sending this through at the eleventh hour. However, following last week's discussions, I thought it might be helpful to provide a brief recap of the draft conditions that, based on our initial reviews of the current (and soon to be superseded) condition sets, are broadly supported in terms of their overall intent.

Where possible, we would ideally like to see these carried across both condition sets (i.e. as common conditions).

### Mana whenua-specific conditions (MW)

- Kaitiaki Governance Group (KGG)
- Cultural Monitoring / Management Programme (CMP)

Note: Once we have a first draft of the revised conditions, we can consider how these sit alongside the wider condition framework, including where conditions may need to reference the KGG or CMP. Further refinement might also be required to the MW conditions. It is noted that outcomes in conditions are not always expected to be achieved through management plans and may also be of interest to the KGG / Papatipu Rūnaka.

### Common conditions

- 35-year consent duration for the land use consent sought from MDC (to establish and operate the solar farm).
- Decommissioning of the solar farm, including a requirement to notify the Kaitiaki Governance Group prior to commencement of decommissioning (noting a six-month advance notice period is proposed in the current conditions).
- Accidental Discovery Protocol (archaeological material) – wording should be consistent and include reference to Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga as well as Papatipu Rūnaka. Example condition wording was appended to the comments provided by AEC (on behalf of Arowhenua Rūnaka) on the Point Project.
- Stormwater management conditions – we understand it may be possible to achieve some consistency across these conditions and would support this approach if feasible. One of our key concerns is ensuring that stormwater generated on each site is appropriately managed so that Lake Benmore (Te Ao Mārama) does not become the receiving environment for any associated discharge activities.

### Other key conditions

#### Avifauna-related conditions

These may include preparation of a management plan to achieve the outcomes specified in the condition(s). We would like to better understand the outcomes being sought through these conditions and how they relate to potential impacts on bird species (particularly taonga species).

This could be revisited next week following today's hui.

For Far North Solar (The Point), we have received draft avifauna compensation options which we understand are currently being discussed with DOC. From our initial discussions, we consider that any compensation measures resulting from bird mortality should be specifically targeted to respond directly to the loss of the identified species.

### **Ecology-related conditions**

We understand these are still evolving, particularly for Haldon Solar Farm, pending further work currently underway. Once these conditions are clearer, it would be helpful to understand how the mana whenua-specific conditions might align or connect with them.

We also note that several ecological enhancement approaches are proposed for both projects, including reserves or conservation areas and the creation of habitats for invertebrates and lizard species.

### **Landscape-related conditions**

These may overlap in part with the ecology conditions, but we would be interested in understanding the range of landscaping improvements proposed (e.g. for ecological enhancement and/or visual mitigation). We also understand that further changes may still be contemplated in relation to this matter.

We look forward to discussing these matters further at next week's meeting. Please let us know if there are any initial thoughts or matters that would be useful to discuss ahead of then.

Ngā mihi,

Amy

Īmēra: [amy.beran@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:amy.beran@ngaitahu.iwi.nz)



**Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu**



Whakaarohia a Papatūānuku i mua i te tānga mai i tēnei Īmēra.

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