

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Application number	FTAA-2605-1232
Project name	Rangitikei Solar Farm

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All sections of this form with an asterisk(*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details	
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.	
Organisation name (if relevant)	Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons Regional Council)
*First name	Sara
*Last name	Westcott
Postal address	Private Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a) Alternative s 9(2)(a)
*Email	s 9(2)(a)

2. Please provide your comments on this application

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this referral application.

Section 17(3) -Any applications lodged that would be competing if a substantive application for the project area were lodged.

With respect to identifying any competing applications to the consent to be sought, there are no applications lodged that would be competing if a substantive application for the Project was lodged.

There is an existing Water Permit (ATH-1978005661.00) located on the site for the construction and maintenance of a detention dam embankment on the Foley Stream for management of floodwaters.

Section 17(3) -Any existing resource consents of the kind referred to in s30(3)(a):

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With respect to the consents to be sought, there are no consents subject to section 124C(l)(c) of the Resource Management Act (RMA).

Section 5 - Involvement of an ineligible activity

I do not consider that the Project may involve an ineligible activity as defined in Section 5.

Section 21(5) - Reasons to decline application:

I do not consider that any of the reasons to decline a referral application, as set out in section 21(5) are applicable to this application except for section 21(5)(c).

The Project may have significant adverse effects on the environment if the potential effects on the Project are not managed effectively.

The following, in particular, have the potential to have significant adverse effects:

The effects of the proposal on wetlands (both NPS-FM and One Plan (2026) Schedule 6 wetlands) will need to be carefully assessed and considered.

Effects on flora and fauna from the Project, particularly on wetlands and waterways. Works in and around these areas can destroy habitat, and increased sedimentation has the potential to impact water quality and instream ecology. These effects can arise from the earthworks, disturbance of contaminated land and any instream works.

Impacts on cultural values and statutory acknowledgements are an important consideration. We note that the Applicant has commenced engagement with Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa but these have yet to be completed, and so the potential of these impacts are not yet known.

The site includes waterways that are subject to a One Plan Schedule 2 Value of 'Flood Control and Drainage', as well as a detention dam (referenced in the consent above) which is a Horizons River Management asset and is part of the drainage scheme which provides flood protection downstream. There are flood carrying capacity restrictions in the Tutaenui Stream catchment. Careful consideration of these matters will be required to ensure that the Project does not adversely impact flood management and downstream properties.

Significant regional or national benefits:

The Project is considered to be regionally and nationally significant infrastructure and therefore provides important benefits to both the region and nationally.

The Project will also contribute to renewable energy generation for New Zealand. Like any development, there will be an element of economic benefit with the project including the creation of employment opportunities.

Appropriateness of utilising Fast Track:

Horizons view on this matter is neutral. Horizons accepts that the project status as both renewable energy and regionally and nationally significant infrastructure is of importance, but due consideration is needed to ensure that the environmental effects of the Project are appropriately managed.

Delivery of new regional or nationally significant infrastructure:

The Project is considered to be of regional or national significance under One Plan (2026) Policy EIT-PI.

Climate Change:

This project is for renewable energy, which as benefits in terms of contributing to a low carbon future by increasing New Zealand's renewable electricity generation capacity, contributing directly to national climate change mitigation and electrification targets.

The Project, however is a significant infrastructure investment that has its own carbon footprint.

Consistency with Regional Planning Documents

Based on the information provided and the discussions had to date, there does not appear to be any activities associated with the proposal that would be Prohibited by the Regional Planning documents.

There is nothing that stands out in the application that would make the Project unable to be consistent with the One Plan (2026), the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (2020) (NES-F) or the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2020) (NPS-FM), on the basis that a full Assessment of Environmental Effects is completed confirming that the potential effects from the Project will be managed effectively, and in accordance with the effects management hierarchy set out in the NPS-FM for any NES-F consents.

The potential adverse effects of the Project will need to be avoided, remedied, mitigated an/or offset in a manner that is consistent with the Objectives and Policies of the regional planning documents. This will need to be demonstrated in the substantive application with the current technical reports, and the addition of further reports.

Iwi and Iwi Authorities

The Applicant has discussed that the Project is within the rohe of Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa and advises they have been engaging with them. From reviewing Council's information, it does not appear that any other iwi or iwi authorities are relevant to this application.

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Insert Fast-track logo

Manager's signoff



Greg Bevin

Regulatory Manager - Horizons Regional Council

29 June 2026

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

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1. Contact Details

Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.

Organisation name (if relevant)	Rangitikei District Council		
*First name	Carol		
*Last name	Gordon (Chief Executive)		
Postal address	46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	0800 422 522
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application

24 June 2026

**Fast-track Approvals Team
Ministry for the Environment**

Rangitikei Solar Farm – Referral Application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the referral application lodged by FRV Services New Zealand Limited for the proposed Rangitikei Solar Farm.

Rangitikei District Council has reviewed the information provided in support of the referral application and provides the following comments for the Minister's consideration.

Competing Applications

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Council is not aware of any applications currently lodged with Rangitikei District Council that would constitute a competing application for the purposes of section 17(3)(a) of the Act.

Ineligible Activities

Having reviewed the referral application documentation, Council has not identified any apparent activity that would constitute an ineligible activity under section 5 of the Act.

Grounds for Declining Referral Application

Council has considered whether any of the grounds for declining a referral application under section 21(5) of the Act apply.

Based on the information provided with the referral application, Council has not identified any matter that would indicate that any of the grounds for declining the referral application under section 21(5) of the Act may apply.

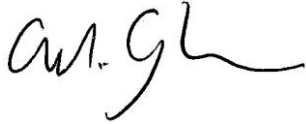
Council's review has been limited to the matters relevant to the referral stage under the Act. Notwithstanding, Council notes that a number of matters will require detailed assessment should a substantive application be lodged, including:

- transportation and roading effects, including construction traffic, access arrangements and any required upgrades to the local road or state highway networks;
- stormwater management, flooding effects and interaction with existing flood management infrastructure;
- effects on wetlands, watercourses and freshwater values;
- landscape, visual amenity and rural character effects;
- cultural effects;
- construction effects, including noise, dust, vibration and earthworks management;
- effects on neighbouring properties and surrounding land uses; and
- infrastructure servicing requirements and any consequential effects on Council assets and services.

However, Council considers these matters are more appropriately assessed through the substantive application process and do not, on the information currently available, constitute grounds for declining the referral application.

Council looks forward to continuing to engage with the applicant and relevant agencies should the project be referred for consideration under the Act. Please contact Council if any clarification is required regarding the matters raised above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Gordon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carol Gordon
Chief Executive - Rangitikei District Council

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Manager's signoff

[Manager Name]

Date

Hon Nicola Willis

Minister of Finance
Minister for Economic Growth
Minister for Social Investment



29 June 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

REQ-0034744

Dear Chris

Thank you for the opportunity to comment under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on referral applications Brick Bay Lodge, FTAA-2603-1204 and Rangitikei Solar Farm, FTAA-2605-1232. I am providing comment in my capacity as Minister for Economic Growth, focusing on whether the application is likely to deliver significant economic benefits under section 22(2)(a)(iv) of the Act, based on the information provided.

Out of Scope

Rangitikei Solar Farm, FTAA-2605-1232

This application is for the construction and operation of the Rangitikei Solar Farm on the eastern edge of Marton in the Rangitikei District. The proposal covers approximately 507 hectares and comprises a 220 megawatt (MW) solar farm, a battery energy storage system, a new substation, and a connection to Transpower's existing transmission network.

Based on the economic assessment provided by the applicant, the proposal represents a capital investment of approximately \$300 million, with an estimated \$150 million of domestic expenditure after excluding imported components. Construction activity over an estimated 18 to 24-month period is projected to contribute approximately \$69 million in GDP, comprising \$20 million in direct GDP and \$49 million in indirect GDP effects. Construction is estimated to support approximately 435 FTE years of employment, including 121 direct FTE-years and 314 indirect FTE-years, and generate approximately \$35 million in wages and salaries, including \$10 million in direct wages. This is equivalent to approximately 218 to 290 FTEs over the construction period.

Once operational, the project will support approximately 10 FTEs annually, contribute around \$3 million in annual GDP and \$1.1 million in annual wages through onsite operations, maintenance and related supply-chain activity.

The application identifies wider benefits from increased renewable electricity generation and energy-system effects. The project is expected to generate around 400 gigawatt-hours annually (equivalent to powering approximately 57,280 households), support wholesale market competition, resilience, and emissions reductions. The solar farm will also use the battery storage to dispatch solar electricity when demand is higher. These benefits are mainly national, while quantified construction impacts are concentrated in Manawatū–Whanganui.

Based on the information provided, the proposal appears likely to deliver significant economic benefits under section 22(2)(a)(iv) of the Act. The principal quantified benefits arise during construction, while longer-term benefits relate to additional renewable electricity generation, and electricity storage capacity. While several wider benefits remain dependent on future market conditions, the scale of investment, estimated construction impacts, and contribution to renewable electricity generation and storage suggest the proposal may have significant economic benefits at both a regional and national level. The proposal may also be relevant to sections 22(2)(a)(ii) and 22(2)(a)(vii) of the Act, which I leave to you and other portfolio Ministers to assess.

Yours sincerely



Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for Economic Growth

Hon Nicola Grigg

Minister for the Environment
Minister of State for Trade and Investment
Minister for Women
Associate Minister for ACC



26 JUN 2026

NGCOR2828

Hon. Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
c.bishop@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Minister,

Thank you for the invitation to provide comments on the application for referral of the Rangitikei Solar Farm project to an expert panel (the Panel) under section 17 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).

I note the presence of long-tailed bats (Threatened – Nationally Critical) is confirmed on the project site. The application notes the removal of the three exotic shelterbelt areas on site could potentially have a direct effect on resident bats, if potential roosting sites are disturbed. The referral application does not refer to seeking or intention to seek permits under the Wildlife Act 1953.

You may wish to use your discretion to specify information that is required to be provided with the substantive application under section 27(3)(b)(ii) of the FTAA to include an assessment of activities that may impact long-tailed bats against the requirements set out in the Wildlife Act 1953 and that appropriate permits are sought.

You may also wish to use your discretion under section 27(3)(b)(iii) to specify persons or groups that the expert panel must invite comments from to include the Minister for Conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this referral application.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Nicola Grigg
Minister for the Environment

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation
Minister for Māori Crown Relations
Minister for Māori Development
Minister for Whānau Ora
Associate Minister of Housing



29 June 2026

By email: infrastructure.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Bishop,

Invitation to comment on the Rangitikei Solar Farm project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the **Rangitikei Solar Farm** project under section 17 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

I have considered the application and its alignment with my portfolios as Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and Minister for Māori Development.

I support the application progressing and I encourage the applicant and the panel to have due regard to:

- relevant Treaty settlement legislation and instruments; and
- any feedback received from relevant Māori groups, as set out in the Treaty settlements and other obligations (Section 18) report prepared by the Ministry for the Environment.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Tama Potaka'.

Hon Tama Potaka

Te Minita mō Te Arawhiti me Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori
Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and Minister for Māori Development

Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Resources
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Energy



29 June 2026

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Rangitīkei Solar Farm application (FTAA-2605-1232)

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA 2024).

The FTAA 2024 has been established to provide a regime that makes it easier and quicker for regionally and nationally significant infrastructure projects to gain the approvals needed for development, in support of this Government's economic growth objectives.

I have considered the application and its alignment with the priorities of my Regional Development portfolio. My comments are attached as Annex One.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Shane Jones'.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Development

Annex One – Regional Development comments

Project overview

1. The applicant, FRV Limited, has applied for Fast-track approval for its proposed Rangitikei Solar Farm project on a 507-hectare site on the eastern edge of Marton. The project entails the development of a 220-megawatt (MW) solar farm and a 190-MW battery energy storage system (BESS), with a connection into Transpower's national grid transmission lines that cross the site.
2. The applicant states that the project could lift New Zealand's annual solar generation by around 67 per cent (from 595 gigawatt hours (GWh), to 1000 GWh).
3. Economic analysis provided by the applicant states that the project will:
 - a. provide one-off benefits to the region over the expected 18- to 24-month build period of:
 - i. \$69 million in gross domestic product (GDP),
 - ii. \$35 million in wages/salaries, and
 - iii. a peak on-site workforce of around 250 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs.
 - b. once operational, generate each year \$3 million in GDP, \$1.1 million in wages/salaries and 10 FTE jobs.

Regional Development comments

4. Based on the analysis provided, the proposed project is expected to offer significant employment opportunities for the region during the build period. The average annual GDP impact during the build period may also be significant for the Manawātū region, equivalent to around 0.4 per cent of the region's GDP which was \$8.65 billion for year-ending March 2025 (based on Infometrics data).
5. An increase in electricity generation, particularly with a BESS, is generally beneficial to regional New Zealand, providing increased certainty to businesses of supply which should encourage investment. Where increased generation helps reduce electricity prices, this would reduce the cost burden on regional communities.
6. Once the project is operational, the regional GDP and employment impacts are expected to be small.
7. Comment on the impact of the proposed project on New Zealand's energy system should come from the Minister of Energy.

Office of Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue



Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure
c.bishop@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on FRV Services New Zealand Limited's Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) substantive application, Rangitikei Solar Farm (FTAA-2605-1232).

The proposal promotes the benefits of renewable electricity generation, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to sustainable development.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my broad support for projects which deliver positive climate outcomes for New Zealand, including the Rangitikei Solar Farm.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop and a long trailing line.

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Project name	FTAA-2605-1232 Rangitikei Solar Farm
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1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	New Zealand Transport Agency		
*First name	Nicola		
*Last name	Foran		
Postal address			
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
FRV is seeking referral under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, for the construction of a 220 Megawatt solar power station on a site lying to the north of Marton in the Rangitikei District. NZTA is the agency responsible for the management of the state highway network and has an interest in this project because of the potential for impacts on the safety and efficiency of traffic movements on SH1. NZTA's comments are based on introductory information distributed by the applicant before the project was submitted for referral. We have not received documentation relating to the referral application as submitted to the EPA. The State Highway Network The site is in an area lying between State Highway One (SH1) to the East, Calico line to the South, Colemans Road to the north and Tutaenui Road to the West. Calico line, Colemans Road, and Tutaenui Road are local roads managed by the Rangitikei District Council.

Insert Fast-track logo

SH1 is the major traffic route through the North Island and carries 5700 vehicles per day (approx.) in the vicinity of the project

Calico Line joins SH1 to the south of the site. The intersection is formed to a high standard in keeping with Calico Line's status as a High Productivity Motor Vehicle (HPMV) Route. HPMV routes are established by the road controlling authorities in the region to provide a network for the movement of large vehicles. In this case Calico line connects to an HPMV route running west to State Highway 3 at Turakina.

Colemans Road connects to SH1 to the north of the project site is a minor local road and is not formed to a standard suitable for heavy construction traffic

Effects on State Highway One

Experience with other solar farms suggests that the potential effects of these projects on the highway are, generally, limited to:

- potential for adverse effects from construction traffic using the junctions of state highways with local roads providing direct access to the site.
- Adverse effects caused by reflections of the sun from the glass solar panels.

The information provided by the applicant to date indicates that this project could have the same potential effects.

Traffic, Rooding, and Access.

The applicant's preliminary information recognises the potential for effects from construction traffic and the need for full investigations to support the substantive application.

NZTA supports the applicant's intention to investigate this area and recommends the following

- The effects of construction and operational traffic on the roading network should be identified, and mitigation proposed, in an independent transport assessment.
- A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) should be prepared and should require, amongst other things, that construction traffic on SH1 must use the Calico Line intersection exclusively to travel to the site.
- Colemans Line should not be used by construction traffic
- The Construction Traffic Management Plan should recommend measures for assessing, and repairing, damage to state highway facilities

Glint and Glare

A preliminary review of the applicant's supporting information and the terrain in the area suggests, as the project site is some distance from the highway, that adverse effects from glare may be unlikely. To confirm this is the case NZTA recommends an assessment of potential effects from glint and glare to support the substantive application and propose mitigation measures if necessary.

NZTA notes that the applicant acknowledges the potential for adverse effects from construction traffic and glint and glare.

Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the information provided by the applicants so far, NZTA considers that the proposal recognises its interests and, subject to the recommendations above, the investigations supporting the substantive application should identify impacts on the state highway network and suitable mitigation measures.

NZTA is happy to take part in further consultation with the applicants as the project investigations proceed.

NZTA has no concerns with this project being referred into the Fast-track Approvals process.

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Managers signoff



Nicola Foran

Date 26/06/2026

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

29 June 2026

Project name	Rangitikei Solar Farm (Project) - FRV
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1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Transpower New Zealand Limited (Transpower)		
*First name	Jo		
*Last name	Mooar		
Postal address	PO Box 1021 Wellington 6011		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
Transpower has been identified as an “other person” for the purpose of section 17(5) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (Act). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about the Project, and its potential impact on National Grid assets. The Project relates to a utility scale solar development in Rangitikei. It proposes renewable electricity generation and will support climate change mitigation (section 22(2)(a)(vii) of the Act). The Project will also deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure (section 22(2)(a)(ii) of the Act). Transpower’s recent Security of Supply Assessment (SOSA) highlights that, as a country, we need to pick up the pace and move planned projects through consenting to build and commissioning phases. A summary of this need is contained at the following link: Building the renewable generation we need to deliver New Zealand’s energy future - a discussion document for consenting authorities.pdf.

The Project is around, and connects to, Transpower's 220kV Brunswick to Bunnythorpe transmission line (BRK-BPE A line). In this regard, Transpower is the occupier of land subject to the Project. As noted, in the referral application, the Project is in investigation.

Appendix B of the referral application contains the indicative layout for the Project. It shows the transmission line (but not the location of its support structures). It also shows the National Grid Yard – and area 12m either side of the BRK-BPE A line. The National Grid Yard is the area where the conductors (wires) generally sit during everyday wind. The conductors swing out beyond this area in higher winds.

It appears from the indicative layout that the proposed substation and vegetation planting is to be located hard against the National Grid Yard. There is insufficient information in the referral application to indicate whether the Project can occur without compromising the BRK-BPE A line. In particular, access to the line (and its support structures) will need to be maintained, vegetation should not be able to grow into the conductors or prevent access to the support structures, and structures (including the substation and solar infrastructure) will need to be appropriately setback from the line. Consideration will also need to be given to any earthworks that is to occur near the BRK-BPE A line during construction.

It is important that the substantive decision is subject to conditions to protect the BRK-BPE A line, including access to it. Provided appropriate conditions are imposed, the Project should be consistent with the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Activities.

Transpower would appreciate the opportunity to comment on any substantive application, to ensure that the BRK-BPE A line is protected.

FDB002138Q9W7

Ngāti Parewahawaha Feedback

 [Ngāti Parewahawaha - Invite Comments - Rangitikei Solar Farm](#)

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed referral application made by FRV Services New Zealand Limited for the Rangitikei Solar Farm.

As this project is proposed within the rohe of Rangitikei, an area with which Ngāti Parewahawaha has longstanding historical and cultural associations, we appreciate the opportunity to comment.

We acknowledge the engagement that has occurred with Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa. We also acknowledge that our hapū, Ngāti Parewahawaha, and our iwi, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, have historical connections to this area, alongside other iwi and hapū with enduring associations to the whenua.

Ngāti Parewahawaha supports an approach to development that seeks to balance economic and infrastructure needs with the principles of kaitiakitanga. We recognise the potential public benefits the project may deliver, including contributing to the resilience of Aotearoa, New Zealand's electricity supply, creating employment and procurement opportunities, and supporting broader economic development within our local communities.

Ngāti Parewahawaha is neutral on whether the proposal should proceed through the Fast-track Approvals process. However as the project progresses, we encourage the applicant to also recognise and reflect the principles of kaitiakitanga as an important consideration in the planning, development, and long-term stewardship of the project.

Ngā mihi uruhau, on behalf of Ngāti Parewahawaha

Charmaine Brown

Trustee

Ngāti Parewahawaha