

Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Consultation Summary – Referral Application

Harmony Energy NZ Limited

Date: July 2026

Version	Date	Comment
1	14 June 2026	Referral Application

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2.1 Statement of Qualifications and Experience

This consultation summary has been prepared by Christina Walker, Planning Director, Harmony Energy New Zealand (HENZ). A summary of the authors qualifications and experience is set out below. The qualifications and experience of the specialists involved are set out in their respective specialist reports.

Christina Walker – Planning Director – Harmony Energy NZ Limited

My full name is Christina Jean Walker. I am a full member of the New Zealand Planning Institute of New Zealand. I hold a Bachelor of Applied Science—Environment Major (completed in 2012) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Planning (completed in 2015 at Massey University).

I have some 14 years experience as a planner, working in both local government and consultancy. I have held my current position, as the Planning Director at Harmony Energy New Zealand, since January of 2025.

I have been the lead planner on five previous solar farm consent application, including four which were processed and granted through the now repealed Covid-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020.

I am familiar with the Environment Court Practice Note 2023 (Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses) and confirm that this report has been prepared in compliance with that Code of Conduct.

3 Executive Summary

In the preparation of the referral application for the Hineura Solar Farm, consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders, including:

- Iwi groups
- Local authorities
- Neighbouring property owners
- Department of Conservation
- Ministry for the Environment

The extent and nature of consultation varied between stakeholders to reflect the level and nature of interest in the project.

Unless otherwise stated, consultation was undertaken by me (Christina Walker, Planning Director) on behalf of Harmony Energy New Zealand (HENZ).

4 Introduction

4.1 Document Purpose

This document is intended to provide a summary of consultation undertaken in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension Referral Application.

It identifies the statutory framework, the parties consulted with, the nature and outcomes of that consultation and importantly, the way in which consultation has influenced the application.

4.2 Statutory Framework

Section 11 of the FTAA sets out the requirements for a referral application. Section 11 is reproduced below for ease of reference.

(1) Before lodging a referral application, the applicant must –

(a) Consult –

- (i) Any relevant applicant groups with applications for customary marine title under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011; and*
- (ii) Ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou, if the project area is within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou; and*

(b) Notify in writing –

- (i) The relevant local authorities; and*
- (ii) Any relevant iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements; and*
- (iii) The tangata whenua of any area with the project area that is a taiāpure-local fishery, a mātaihai reserve or an area that is subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996; and*
- (iv) The relevant administering agencies; and*
- (v) If the proposed approvals for the project are to include an approval described in section 42(4)(f) (land exchange) the holder of an interest in the land that is to be exchanged by the Crown; and*

(c) Give the persons and groups referred to in paragraph (b) 20 working days to respond to the notice.

(1A) The applicant must not lodge the referral application until each 20w working day period given under subsection (1)(c) has expired.

- (2) *If a referral applicaiton is to be lodged by more than 1 person, any 1 of those persons may comply with this section on behalf of all of them.*

Identified stakeholders, iwi groups and potentially affected parties are set out in section 5 of this report.

5 Identified Parties

The following persons/groups were identified as being potential affected by or stakeholders relevant to the proposal:

5.1 Iwi Groups

There are no relevant applicant groups with applications for customary marine title under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 and the project area is not within or adjacent to ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou. Likewise, there are no relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements and the project is not within a taiāpure-local fishery.

The following iwi groups have been identified as having a Treaty Settlements that apply to the project area and have been notified of the proposal:

- Hako Tūpua Trust
- Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust
- Ngāti Tumutumu Trust
- Ngāti Tara Tokanui Trust
- Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Trust
- Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society
- Ngati Maru Ki Haruaki Inc
- Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust
- Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated

5.2 Local Authorities

The following local authorities have been notified of the proposal

- Matamata Piako District Council
- Waikato Regional District Council

5.3 Administering Agencies

The following administering agencies have been notified of the proposal:

- The Department of Conservation
- Ministry for the Environment (now the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport).

5.4 Neighbouring Properties

Properties within the vicinity of the site have been advised of the referral application. A list of those properties and owners, including contact details are included in Appendix A.

6 Summary of Consultation

6.1 Iwi Groups

All iwi groups were also provided with notice of the project and referral application via email on 27 May 2026. A copy of the those emails are included in Appendix B.

A summary of consultation with iwi groups to date is included below. It is intended that consultation will continue through the development of a substantive application.

Ngāti Tumutumu Trust

- An introductory hui was held with s 9(2)(a) on 1 April 2026. Discussion focused on introducing the project and agreeing an approach to development. Parties agreed to proceed on a collaborative basis, possibly with development of a Cultural Impact Assessment on a staged basis – to ensure cultural values are understood from the outset of the project.
- A site visit was carried out on 6 May 2026.
- An online hui was held on 20 May 2026. Discussion focused on the cultural values associated with the site and the manner in which these could be practically expressed within project design. s 9(2)(a) provided a draft ecological whakapapa framework to assist with articulating cultural values. This was provided to the project team.
- A formal 20 day notice of the referral application was emailed on 27 May 2026.

Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust

- An email, introducing the project, was sent to s 9(2)(a), on 7 April 2026.
- An introductory hui was held on line on 15 April 2026. The discussion focused on an introduction to the project and approach to development. s 9(2)(a) undertook to confirm the correct contact person for the project.
- On 29 April 2026, via email, s 9(2)(a) confirmed that s 9(2)(a) would be the contact person for the project.
- On 27 April 2026 an email was sent to both s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(a) providing formal notice of the referral application.
- On 29 May 2026, following a number of emails and calls to arrange, an online hui was held with s 9(2)(a), providing an introduction to the project, confirmation of the approach to development and confirming a date for a site visit.
- On 8 June 2026, an onsite meeting was held and attended by s 9(2)(a). A follow up email was sent to s 9(2)(a) requesting that he advise of any particular areas of significance or particular cultural values, other than or different to those expressed in the Cultural Impact Assessment for Tauhei Solar Farm.

Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Trust

- An email, introducing the project, was sent to s 9(2)(a) on 15 April 2026.
- On 6 May 2026, s 9(2)(a) responded, noting that s 9(2)(a), Chief Executive Officer was interested in the project and would like to meet.
- On 21 May 2026, an in person meeting was held with s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(a), where the project was discussed in general terms (along with another project of relevance to Ngāti Hinerangi). The following outcomes were noted and included in a follow up email on 22 May 2026:

- The project site sits at the northern extent of the Ngāti Hinerangi rohe, but that there are no Ngāti Hinerangi cultural significant sites on or immediately near the property
- There is no need or desire for a site visit at this time, however Ngāti Hinerangi may have a discussion with s 9(2)(a) (Ngāti Tumutumu) and/or s 9(2)(a) (Ngāti Haua) about the project and will advise if a site visit is required after that.
- In the meantime HENZ will keep Ngāti Hinerangi informed of the project
- The referral application is likely to be lodged in the next 4-6 weeks.
- A formal 20 day notice of the referral application was emailed on 27 May 2026.

Hako Tūpna Trust (Ngāti Hako)

- An email, introducing the project, was sent to s 9(2)(a) on 15 April 2026
- On 21 April 2026 a response was received from s 9(2)(a) noting an interest in hearing more about the project and supporting Ngāti Tumutumu's involvement.
- Emails were sent to s 9(2)(a) on 21 April 2026 and 26 May 2026 regarding possible meeting dates. No response was received.
- A formal 20 day notice of the referral application was emailed on 27 May 2026.

Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (Waikato Tainui)

- An email, introducing the project, was sent to s 9(2)(a) on 15 April 2026, but was bounced back as s 9(2)(a) had left the role. The email was forwarded to the s 9(2)(a) email on 20 April 2026.
- Confirmation of the correct contact person, being s 9(2)(a), was received on 29 April 2026.
- On 1 May 2026 an email was sent to s 9(2)(a) requesting confirmation on whether Waikato Tainui wish to be involved in the project from the outset or whether the preference is to wait until more detail, including an assessment against relevant management plans are available.
- A formal 20 day notice of the referral application was emailed on 27 May 2026.
- On 29 May 2026 an online hui was held with s 9(2)(a). The discussion covered an introduction to the the project and confirmed that Waikato Tainui are happy to leave early discussions with hapu, with formal comment by Waikato Tainui to be provided at the time of substantive application. A form for seeking feedback at that time was provided for HENZ use.

Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society, Ngati Maru Ki Haruaki Inc, Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust and Ngāti Tara Tokanui Trust.

- An email introducing the project and requesting a response as to interest in the project was sent to the following contact people/emails:
 - Ngaati Whanaunga – s 9(2)(a)
 - Ngāti Maru – office@ngatimaru.iwi.nz
 - Ngāti Tamaterā – s 9(2)(a)
 - Ngāti Tara Tokanui – s 9(2)(a)
- A response was received by Ngāti Tamaterā requesting that HENZ records be updated to include the RMA email address (rma@tamatera.iwi.nz). No other responses were received.
- A formal 20 day notice of the referral application was emailed on 27 May 2026 to the above contacts (including the updated RMA address for Ngāti Tamatera).

6.2 Local Authorities

Both Matamata Piako District Council (MPDC) and Waikato Regional Council (WRC) have been notified of the intention to submit a referral application. In addition, an introductory meeting has been held with MPDC.

Responses from both MPDC and WRC are attached at Appendix C. Both Councils have provided useful guidance as to the development of the substantive application. It is intended that consultation with both Councils will continue through the development of the substantive application, including (but not limited to):

- Matters relating to rule interpretation and applicability.
- Scope and detail of effects assessment.
- Conditions of consent.

6.3 Adjacent Landowners

On 30 April 2026 a letter was provided to adjacent landowners advising them of the of the project. The letter included details as to the intended development approach, an outline of the the Fast Track Approvals process and an invitation to join a neighbours register. The letter was either emailed (where email addresses were known), hand delivered (where the postal address was assumed to be the same as the property address) or was posted.

A list of neighbours is included in Appendix A. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix D.

In person meetings were also held with the owners/occupiers of 307 O'Donoghue Road s 9(2)(a) and 108 Waiheke Road s 9(2)(a) on 30 April 2026 and 6 May respectively.

Consultation with potentially affected neighbours and the wider community (as appropriate) will continue through the life of the project.

6.4 Administering Agencies

Department of Conservation

Formal notice of the referral application was sent to the Department of Conservation on 28 May 2026, noting that the referral application would include wildlife approvals. Whether or not wildlife approval(s) will be required will be determined on the completion of bat and lizard surveys which are currently underway at the site.

A copy of the notification and the response from the Department of Conservation is attached at Appendix E.

Ministry for the Environment/Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

A pre-application meeting with s 9(2)(a) of the then Ministry for the Environment was held on 24 April 2026. Also in attendance was Emily Buckingham of SLR Consulting. The meeting covered a range of matters including:

- Requirements for notification
- Timeframes and costs
- Level of detail

- Types of applications

This information was very useful in the preparation of the referral application.

7 Conclusion

The consultation and notification requirements of Section 11 of the FTAA have been met.

In addition to the requirements of Section 11, consultation with iwi groups and neighbouring properties has commenced and will continue through the life of the project.

Appendix A: List of Neighbouring Properties

Title	Legal Des	Prop. Address	Owner	Contact Name	Postal Address	Email Address
O'Donoghue Road						
SA463/199	Part Section 11 Block XI Aroha SD	262A Stanley Road South	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	admin@cgca.co.nz
SA463/198	Part Section 11 Block XI Aroha SD	O'Donoghue Road/Stanley Road South	s 9(2)(a)			
SA45C/193	Lot 1 DPS 54665	356 Stanley Road South	s 9(2)(a)			
SA45C/195	Lot 3 DPS 54665	O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
SA376/198	Lot 3 DP 15780	112 O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA64D/402	Lot 5 DPS 82100	O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA64D/401	Lot 4 DPS 82100	67 McCabe Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA275/103	Lot 2 DP 9694	121 McCabe Road	s 9(2)(a)			
106877	Lot 2 DP 326301	O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)		s 9(2)(a)
				s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
6876	Lot 1 DP 326301	145 O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
54669	Lot 1 DP 337667	307 O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
SA281/193	Lot 4 DP 12172	312 O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
SA689/11	Lot 1 DP 24486	131 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)			

SA689/12	Lot 2 DP 24486	131 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA281/192	Lot 2 DP 12172	393 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA28/191	Lot 3 DP 12172	419 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
SA69C/506	Lot 2 DPS 87791	Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA376/199	Lot 4 15780	O'Donoghue Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA376/196	Lot 1 DP 15780	173 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
SA38C/752	Part Lot 2 DP 15780	205 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			
McCabe Road						
SA68B/434	Lot 2 DPS 86307	65 McCabe Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)		s 9(2)(a)
SA357/272	Part Section 9 Block XI Aroha SD	McCabe Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA262/6	Part Section 9 Block XI Aroha SD	189 McCabe Road	s 9(2)(a)			
581094	Lot 2 DP 453523	155B Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
581093	Lot 1 DP 453523	147 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			

SA262/7	Part Section 9 Block XI Aroha SD	83 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)		s 9(2)(a)
1195807	Lot 2 DP 607101	Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA163/255	Part Section 9 Block XI Aroha SD	295 McCabe Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – hand delivered
Mikkelsen Road						
SA47D/139	Part Lot 2 DP 2612	280 Waihekau Road,	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	
SA114/159	Lot 1 DP 2612	364 Mikkelsen Road,	s 9(2)(a)			
138950	Lot 2 DP 333952	227 Waihekau Road	s 9(2)(a)			
594492	Lot 2 DP 457929	Waihekau Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA11B/1157	Lot 1 DPS 13558	264 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown -hand delivered
SA48C/157	Lot 2 DP 113	Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA25D/1153	Lot 2 DPS 28141	140 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA54A/612	Lot 2 DPS 67441	114 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			
SA48C/156	Lot 1 DP 113	184 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)			

		264 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	
426102	Lot 1 DP 407420	43 Mikkelsen Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Posted
				The Occupier	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Delivered
426103	Lot 2 DP 407420	Mikkelsen Road/SH 26	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Posted
SA257/117	Part Section 92 Block XI Aroha SD	4402 State Highway 26	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)		s 9(2)(a)
Waiheka Road						
594491	Lot 1 DP 457929	341 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Posted
				s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Posted
				The Occupier	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Hand Delivered
SA55A/333	Lot 3 DPS 68637	235 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Hand Delivered
SA55A/331	Lot 1 DPS 68637	Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)			Duplicate

SA87/181	Part Lot 1 DP 1869	279 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	The Occupier	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Hand Delivered
SA69C/505	Lot 1 DPS 87791	195 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
SA496/181	Part Section 3 Block I Wairere SD	91 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Hand Delivered
648352	Section 2 SO 469213	140 Alexandra Road	s 9(2)(a)	The Occuiper	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown Hand Delivered
SA27C/33	Lot 1 DPS 30463	108 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Hand Delivered – email provided later s 9(2)(a)
				s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
SA27C/34	Lot 2 DPS 30463	84 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Posted
				The Occupier	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Hand Delivered
SA229/106	Lot 2 DP 8280	20 Waiheka Road,	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Hand Delivered
SA47D/138	Lot 1 DPS 58544	298 Waiheka Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Hand Delivered

811957	Lot 2 DP 518356	332 Waiheke Road	s 9(2)(a)			Duplicate
811956	Lot 1 DP 518356	346 Waiheke Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Posted
				s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Hand Delivered
Alexandra Road						
SA717/97	Lot 2 DP 28937	86 Alexandra Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown - Posted
192928	Lot 1 DP 346931	54 Alexandra Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	Unknown – Hand Delivered
SA1003/146	Lot 1 DPS 46	42 Alexandra Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
Additional Contacts - Added at Request						
		484 Stanley Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
		485 Stanley Road	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
Landowners						
Various			s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)		s 9(2)(a)
Various			s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)		s 9(2)(a)

Appendix B: Iwi Notifications

From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:23:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.png](#)

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

I have sent you a teams hui for Friday, please let me know if that doesn't work for you and I am happy to change it.

Just to note, we don't have a lot of material at this time (largely just what is included in the original email at the bottom of this thread), as we are at the very early stages of the project. However, I think it would be helpful to talk through how we intend to develop the project and the ideal touch points throughout that project.

Additionally, recent changes to the Fast Track Approvals Act mean section 11 now requires formal notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities.. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace or restrict any further consultation with you, rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 1:05 pm
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

You don't often get email from s 9(2)(a) . [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Cristina,

Happy to set up a Teams hui to receive an update on the project. Feel free to send through an invite at a time that works for your team and I will slot it into my calendar.

If you are able to send through any relevant documents beforehand, that would be appreciated and will help inform the discussion.

Ngaa mihi,



s 9(2)(a) | Senior Planner
Mobile: s 9(2)(a) **S Tel:** 0800TAINUI
Email: s 9(2)(a) **Web:** www.waikatotainui.com
Address: PO Box 648, 4 Bryce Street, 3204, Hamilton
 

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Please contact Waikato-Tainui for more information.

From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 2:54 PM
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

KIA TUUPATO: This email is from an external sender. Please only act on this email if

you trust the individual and organisation represented below. From time to time our kaimahi receive fraudulent email from bad actors posing as legitimate companies. If you were not expecting this email, do not open links or attachments, proceed with caution.

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for coming back to me.

As I set out below, we are keen to take a design led approach to the development of this project, which will involve ensuring we understand cultural values from the outset of the project. We are working closely with Ngāti Tumutumu, Ngāti Haua and Ngāti Hako to advance this.

Can you please advise if you would also like to be involved at this early stage in the project, or whether we should wait until we have additional project details/an assessment against Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato?

With thanks,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 12:44 pm

To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

You don't often get email from s 9(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

Kia ora Christina,

I'll be looking after this one on behalf of Te Whakakitenga. Please reach out when you are ready.

Ngaa mihi



s 9(2)(a) | Senior Planner

Mobile: s 9(2)(a) | **Tel:** 0800TAINUI

Email: s 9(2)(a) | **Web:** www.waikatotainui.com

Address: PO Box 648, 4 Bryce Street, 3204, Hamilton



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Please contact Waikato-Tainui for more information.

From: s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 12:15 PM

To: s 9(2)(a)

Subject: FW: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora koorua,

Im unsure who was on this one but can one of you reply please

J



s 9(2)(a) | Pou Taiao / Environment Manager

Mobile: s 9(2)(a) | **Tel:** 0800TAINUI

Email: s 9(2)(a) | **Web:** www.waikatotainui.com

Address: PO Box 648, 4 Bryce Street, 3204, Hamilton



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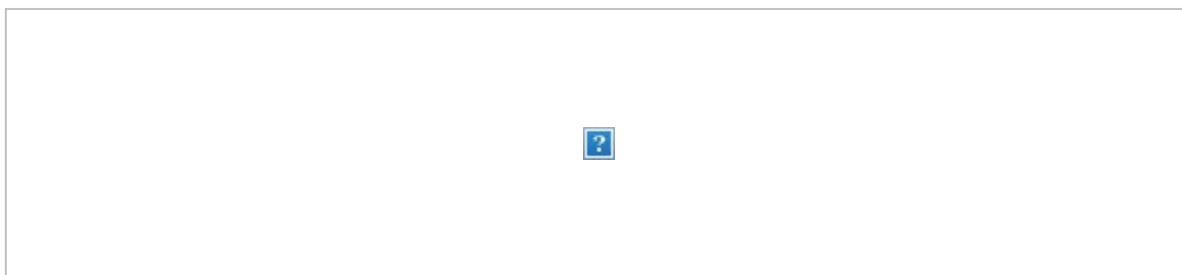
Please contact Waikato-Tainui for more information.

From: Scholarships Grants S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:31 pm
To: Taiao <taiao@tainui.co.nz>
Subject: FW: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora,

Forwarding for further assistance.

Nga Mihi,



Scholarships Grants

Mobile: 0800 TAINUI | **Tel:** S 9(2)(a)
Email: S 9 | **Web:** www.waikatotainui.com
Address: PO Box 648, 4 Bryce Street, 3240, Hamilton
 

This email, including attachments, may contain information which is confidential or subject to legal privilege or copyright. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately and then delete this email from your system. Email communications are not secure and are not guaranteed by Waikato-Tainui to be free of unauthorised interference, error or virus. Anyone who communicates with us by email is taken to accept this risk.

Anything in this email which does not relate to the official business of Waikato-Tainui is neither given nor endorsed by Waikato-Tainui.

Please contact Waikato-Tainui for more information.

From: Christina Walker S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:26 pm
To: Scholarships Grants S 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

You don't often get email from S 9(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

KIA TUUPATO: This email is from an external sender. Please only act on this email if you trust the individual and organisation represented below. From time to time our kaimahi receive fraudulent email from bad actors posing as legitimate companies. If you were not expecting this email, do not open links or attachments, proceed with caution.

Kia ora,

The below email bounced back as I understand s 9(2)(a) has had a change in role. Accordingly, I would be very grateful if the below could be forwarded to the correct person within Waikato Tainui.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:15 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Harmony Energy New Zealand are in the preliminary stages of developing a proposal for the extension of our solar farm at Te Aroha West (known as the 'Tauhei Solar Farm', which is currently under construction. You may already be aware of the Tauhei Solar Farm, a 150MW solar farm which was consented by Harmony Energy and is being delivered in partnership between Harmony Energy NZ and First Renewables/Igneo.

We understand that Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated were invited to engage during the consent process for the existing project, but at that time it was decided Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Tumutumu and Ngaati Whanaunga were mana whenua in respect of the site and would take the lead from a cultural perspective. Nonetheless, given that the site is located within Waikato Tainui's area of interest, I am reaching out to ensure you are kept informed about the extension project and have the opportunity to be

involved, should you wish to do so. Accordingly, the following introduces both Harmony Energy and the project.

Harmony Energy NZ

Harmony Energy is leading the development of the extension project. Harmony Energy is an independent New Zealand based company lead by Pete Grogan. Pete returned to Aotearoa in 2022 to be closer to family and is a founding shareholder and director of the business. Pete is also a shareholder and director of Harmony's European businesses that build, own and operate wind, solar and battery energy storage assets in the UK, France, Germany and Poland.

I am Harmony Energy's Planning Director and will be managing all aspects of the consenting process, as well as remaining involved in the project through construction and operation.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waihekau Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting Approach

Our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. Central to this approach is engaging early with in a mana whenua to understand the cultural values associated with the site and surrounds at the outset of the project as well as working alongside mana whenua throughout the development of the project.

At this stage, the intention is to consent the project through the Fast Track Approvals Act, however, as you are likely aware our ability to utilise this consenting pathway is reliant on a successful referral application. We will make a referral application once initial site surveys and discussions with mana whenua have been completed.

In the first instance, I would be grateful if you could confirm that these are the correct contact details for Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated and Waikato Tainui and/or if there are others within your organisation I should also be engaging with. If Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated are interested in being involved, I would welcome the opportunity to arrange an introductory hui. Please feel free to respond to this email or give me a call on 021 367 143 to discuss next steps and arrange a hui.

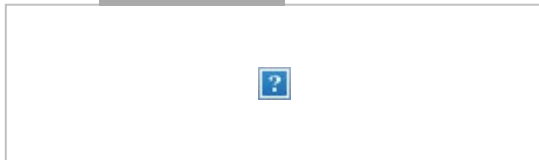
Ngā mihi,

Christina

Christina Walker

Planning Director – New Zealand

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:07:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Further to the below recent changes to section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, now requires formally notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace or restrict any further consultation with you, rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:33 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Harmony Energy New Zealand are in the preliminary stages of developing a proposal for the extension of our solar farm at Te Aroha West (known as the 'Tauhei Solar Farm', which is currently under construction. You may already be aware of the Tauhei Solar Farm, a 150MW solar farm which was consented by Harmony Energy and is being delivered in partnership between Harmony Energy NZ and First Renewables/Igneo.

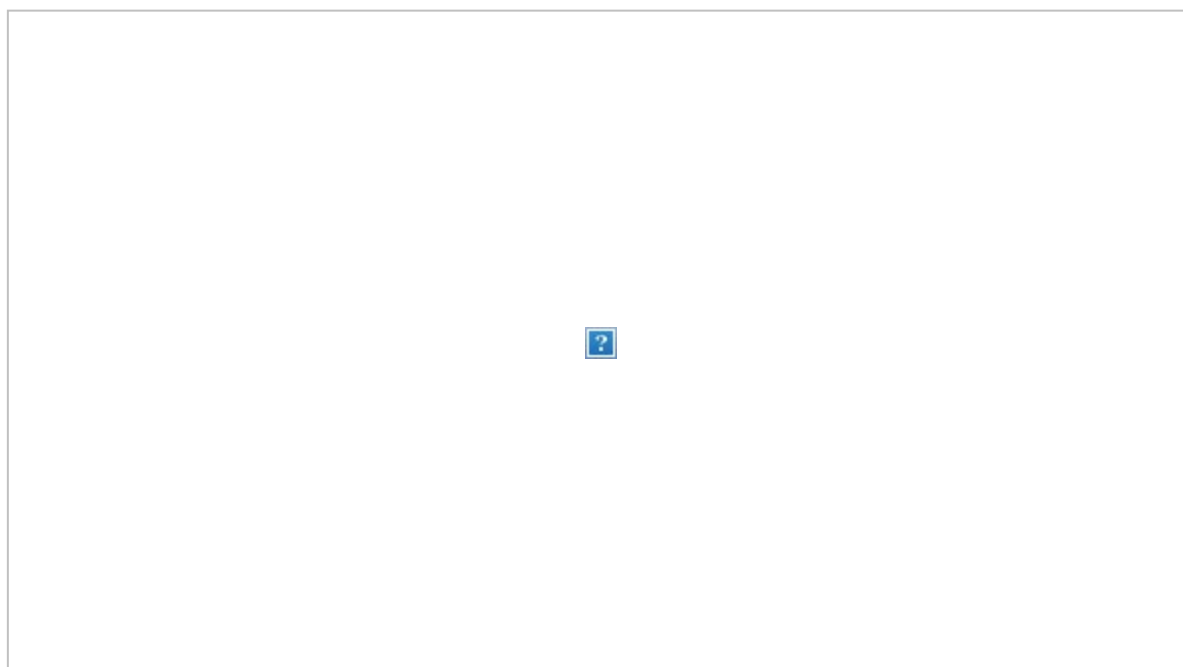
As you will be aware Ngaati Whanaunga were involved in the consent process for the existing project (largely lead by s 9(2)(a)), however I understand that since then Ngaati Whanaunga have stepped back from the project with Ngāti Hauā and Ngāti Tumutumu taking the lead from a cultural perspective. It is our intention to continue working with Ngāti Hauā and Ngāti Tumutumu in the development of the extensions project. Nonetheless, given that the site is located within Ngaati Whanaunga area of interest, I am reaching out to ensure you are aware of the extension project.

The Project

Harmony Energy is leading the development of the extension project. I am Harmony Energy's Planning Director and will be managing all aspects of the consenting process, as well as remaining involved in the project through construction and operation.

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waihekau Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting Approach

As with the Tauhei Project, our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. Central to this approach is engaging early with in a mana whenua to understand the cultural values associated with the site and surrounds at the outset of the project as well as working alongside mana whenua throughout the development of the project.

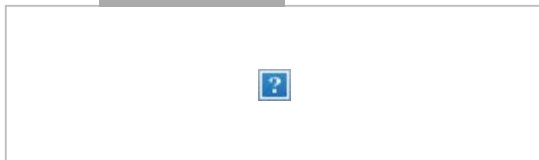
At this stage, the intention is to consent the project through the Fast Track Approvals Act, however, as you are likely aware our ability to utilise this consenting pathway is reliant on a successful referral application. We will make a referral application once initial site surveys and discussions with mana whenua have been completed.

In the first instance, I would be grateful if you could confirm that these are the correct contact details for Ngaati Whanaunga and/or if there are others within your organisation I should also be engaging with. If you would like to know more about the project or are interested in being involved, I would welcome the opportunity to arrange an introductory hui. Please feel free to respond to this email or give me a call on 021 367 143 to discuss next steps and arrange a hui.

Ngā mihi,

Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: [Jill](#)
Subject: FW: Some Ideas around Values, My initial thoughts.
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:17:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora Jill,

Further to the below, recent changes to the Fast Track Approvals Act mean section 11 now requires formal notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace the korero we have already had or in any way restrict our ongoing collaborative approach to the project, rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2026 11:18 am
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Some Ideas around Values, My initial thoughts.

Morena s
9(2)

Thanks for sending this through, I think it is a great starting point, and we will definitely be able to use those guiding principles both in terms of selecting areas for restoration and in terms of designing restoration plans (which will come a bit later).

I'll touch base again when we have finished the site studies and have some draft layouts. However, if you think of anything in the meantime always happy to chat.

Thanks,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 10:53 am
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Some Ideas around Values, My initial thoughts.

Ecological Whakapapa Framework – Tauhei Solar Farm Project

“Ehara te ngahere i te rākau kotahi, engari he whakapapa ora.”
The forest is not a single tree, but a living whakapapa.

For Ngāti Tumutumu, the ngahere and the maunga are inseparable. Te Aroha Maunga sits at the centre of our identity, and its forests, waterways, soils, species and wider ecological systems are understood as interconnected parts of a living whakapapa that has evolved together over generations.

For Ngāti Tumutumu, ecological restoration is therefore not simply revegetation or compliance planting. It is the process of restoring the ecological whakapapa of the whenua — reconnecting the relationships between seed, species, whenua, wai, insects, manu, soils, climate and the wider catchment systems they belong to and evolved within together over time.

Plants are not viewed as isolated or interchangeable objects. They are part of interconnected ecological whānau, shaped by the environments they originate from and connected to the wider systems around them. In the same way, ngahere is not simply a collection of trees, but a living network of relationships that together sustain the mauri and balance of the landscape.

Within the Tauhei Solar Farm Project, restoration must therefore go beyond achieving planting targets or compliance outcomes. The focus is not solely on vegetation establishment, but on rebuilding ecological relationships and restoring the resilience and mauri of the landscape over generations.

This means restoration should:

- use eco-sourced seed that whakapapa to Te Aroha and its wider catchments;
- restore whole ecosystem systems, not simply standardised “native planting mixes”;
- prioritise habitat creation for taonga species, including manu, insects and freshwater species;
- support cultural and ecological relationships through the inclusion of rongoā species and mahinga kai where appropriate;
- recognise the importance of wetlands, waterways and ecological corridors as connected living systems; and
- reflect an intergenerational restoration vision grounded in long-term ecological health rather than short-term compliance minimums.

These principles guide not only what is planted, but how restoration is designed, implemented, monitored and maintained over time. The intention is to restore ecological systems in a way that strengthens the living relationship between whenua, wai, ngahere and the wider catchment systems connected to Te Aroha Maunga.

s 9(2)(a)
Kaiwhakahaere
s 9(2)(a)



From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Cc: "rma environment"
Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:04:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

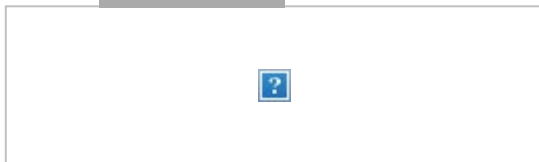
Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Further to the below, recent changes to section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, now requires formally notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace or restrict any further consultation with you, rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2026 9:37 am
To: s 9(2)(a)
Cc: rma environment <rma@tamatera.iwi.nz>
Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Ka pai s 9(2)(a) will do.

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2026 9:08 am
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Cc: rma environment <rma@tamatera.iwi.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

You don't often get email from s 9(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

Kia ora Christina,

Please add the RMA address to your database

Ngā mihi,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a) | Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive Officer

Ngāti Tamatera Treaty Settlement Trust

[Iwi Membership Registration](#)

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Address: PO Box 28, 433 Pollen Street, THAMES, 3500

www.tamatera.iwi.nz



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Admin support** <admin@tamatera.iwi.nz>
Date: Thu, 23 Apr 2026, 08:42
Subject: Fwd: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension
To: s 9(2)(a)

Courtesy notification regarding the proposed extension to Harmony Energy, Tauhei Solar Farm in Te Aroha.

Ngā mihi,

**Administration Team |
Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust**

Email: admin@tamatera.iwi.nz

Address: PO Box 28, [433 Pollen Street, THAMES](#), 3500



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christina Walker** <s 9(2)(a)>

Date: Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 2:12 PM

Subject: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

To: admin@tamatera.iwi.nz <admin@tamatera.iwi.nz>

Kia ora,

Harmony Energy New Zealand are in the preliminary stages of developing a proposal for the extension of our solar farm at Te Aroha West (known as the 'Tauhei Solar Farm', which is currently under construction. You may already be aware of the Tauhei Solar Farm, a 150MW solar farm which was consented by Harmony Energy and is being delivered in partnership between Harmony Energy NZ and First Renewables/Igneo.

We understand that Ngāti Tamaterā were invited to engage during the consent process for the existing project, but at that time it was decided Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Tumutumu and Ngaati Whanaunga were mana whenua in respect of the site and would take the lead from a cultural perspective. Nonetheless, given that the site is located within Ngāti Tamaterā's area of interest, I am reaching out to ensure you are kept informed about the extension project and have the opportunity to be involved, should you wish to do so. Accordingly, the following introduces both Harmony Energy and the project.

Harmony Energy NZ

Harmony Energy is leading the development of the extension project. Harmony Energy

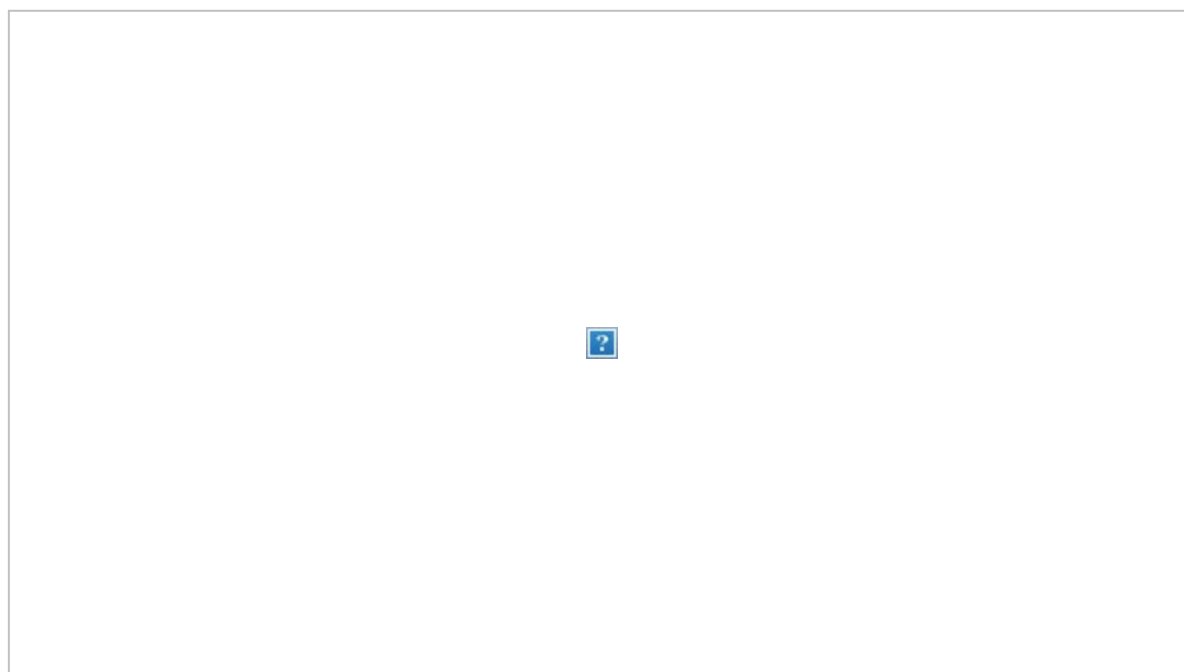
is an independent New Zealand based company lead by Pete Grogan. Pete returned to Aotearoa in 2022 to be closer to family and is a founding shareholder and director of the business. Pete is also a shareholder and director of Harmony's European businesses that build, own and operate wind, solar and battery energy storage assets in the UK, France, Germany and Poland.

I am Harmony Energy's Planning Director and will be managing all aspects of the consenting process, as well as remaining involved in the project through construction and operation.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)	
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road		Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waiheka Road		Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715	
		Total	95.648	



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting Approach

Our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which

means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. Central to this approach is engaging early with in a mana whenua to understand the cultural values associated with the site and surrounds at the outset of the project as well as working alongside mana whenua throughout the development of the project.

At this stage, the intention is to consent the project through the Fast Track Approvals Act, however, as you are likely aware our ability to utilise this consenting pathway is reliant on a successful referral application. We will make a referral application once initial site surveys and discussions with mana whenua have been completed.

In the first instance, I would be grateful if you could confirm that these are the correct contact details for Ngāti Tamaterā and/or if there are others within your organisation I should also be engaging with. If Ngāti Tamaterā are interested in being involved, I would welcome the opportunity to arrange an introductory hui. Please feel free to respond to this email or give me a call on 021 367 143 to discuss next steps and arrange a hui.

Ngā mihi,

Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:09:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Further to the below and to our hui, recent changes to section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, now requires formally notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace any of the korero that we have already had, or our intention to continue working collaboratively with you throughout the life of the project. Rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2026 10:03 am
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Thank you to both you and s 9(2)(a) for your time yesterday, it was good to meet you in person after so many emails and phone calls.

Just to confirm my understanding of our discussion and next steps:

Tauhei Extension (Te Aroha West)

- This is a new project, and we are currently undertaking site studies and working with both Ngāti Haua and Ngāti Tumutumu to understand how cultural values may be expressed within the design. You noted that this project sits at the northern extent of your rohe, but there are no Ngāti Hinerangi cultural significant sites on or immediately near the property.
- You don't wish to undertake a site visit at this time, but will let me know if you change your mind and/or you might have a discussion with s 9(2)(a) (Ngāti Tumutumu) and/or s 9(2)(a) (Ngāti Haua) about the project.
- In the meantime, I will keep you informed about the project as we progress and if at any point

you would like any additional information you will let me know.

- We are looking to lodge a referral application for this project in the next 4-6 weeks.

-

Hinuera

- You will talk to Norm and then let me know if you intend to provide an individual CIA or whether Norm is to continue providing a combined CIA (with Ngāti Haua and Ngāti Raukawa). As I noted, it is my intention to have all final draft technical reports uploaded to the share file by the end of next week. After which I would need to have a CIA ASAP, but ideally within 2 weeks.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

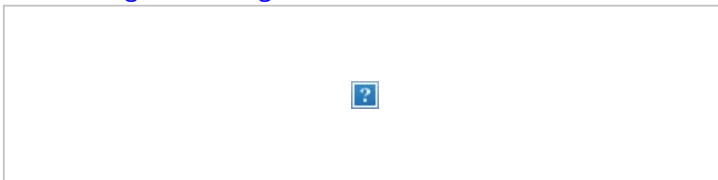
From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 10:31 pm
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Sure thing. Coffee Gallery on the corner of Tainui and Broadway.

Ngā mihi,
s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)
EA to CE s 9(2)(a) **I Communications I Social Funding**
M: s 9(2)(a)

W: www.ngatihinerangiwi.co.nz



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On Tue, 19 May 2026 at 2:57 PM, Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
wrote:

|

Okay, I can come to Matamata if you are able to recommend a spot to meet – café maybe?

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 2:54 pm
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

He's in Matamata...

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

EA to CE s 9(2)(a) **I Communications I Social Funding**

M: s 9(2)(a)

E: s 9(2)(a)

W: www.ngatihinerangiwi.co.nz



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On Tue, 19 May 2026 at 2:36 PM, Christina Walker s 9(2)(a) wrote:

Whereabouts is s 9(2)(a) based?

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 2:16 pm
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Great. s 9(2) is available too. Best place to meet you?
()

On Tue, 19 May 2026 at 11:39, Christina Walker <s 9(2)(a)>
wrote:

Yes, that will work.

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 11:37 am
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Sorry Christina!

Could you do this Thursday at 11.30am?

On Fri, 15 May 2026 at 08:16, Christina Walker <s 9(2)(a)>
wrote:

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

I certainly can. Would you let me to send a meeting request through, or will you do that?

Ngā mihi
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2026 2:18 pm
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora,

Could you do Monday after 1pm?

Ngā mihi,
s 9(2)(a)

On Thu, 7 May 2026 at 08:39, Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
wrote:

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Absolutely, happy to have a hui to discuss.

Do any of the following times/dates suit:

- Monday the 11th – anytime except 9.30-10
- Tuesday the 12th – afternoon
- Friday the 15th – anytime except 10-11.30
- Monday the 18th – anytime except 9.30-10
- Tuesday the 19th – afternoon
- Wednesday the 20th – anytime except 10-10.30
- Friday the 22nd – anytime except 10.30-11.30?

Thanks,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 1:18 pm

To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora Christina,

My CE has had another look at the project and is keen to be involved. Thanks for following up.

Any chance I could book you in for a meeting with him, s 9(2)(a) when you can?

I'm still the contact but he's keen to meet.

Ngā mihi!

s 9(2)(a)
EA to CE s 9(2)(a) | Communications | Social Funding
M: s 9(2)(a)
E: s 9(2)(a)
W: www.ngatihinerangiwi.co.nz



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On Mon, 20 Apr 2026 at 2:24 PM, Christina Walker
s 9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

I am emailing you today in regard to a different project.

Specifically, we are in the preliminary stages of developing a proposal for the extension of our solar farm at Te Aroha West (known as the ‘Tauhei Solar Farm’, which is currently under construction. You may already be aware of the Tauhei Solar Farm, a 150MW solar farm which was consented by Harmony Energy and is being delivered in partnership between Harmony Energy NZ and First Renewables/Igneo.

We understand that Ngāti Hinerangi were invited to engage during the consent process for the existing Tuaehei Solar Farm project, but at that time it was decided Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Tumutumu and Ngaati Whanaunga were mana whenua in respect of the site and would take the lead from a cultural perspective. Nonetheless, given that the site is located within Ngāti Hinerangi’s area of interest, I am reaching out to ensure you are kept informed about the extension project and have the opportunity to be involved, should you wish to do so. Accordingly, the following introduces the project.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waihekau Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting Approach

As with the Hinuera project, our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. Central to this approach is engaging early with in a mana whenua to understand the cultural values associated with the site and surrounds at the outset of the project as well as working alongside mana whenua throughout the development of the project.

At this stage, the intention is to consent the project through the Fast Track Approvals Act, however, as you are likely aware our ability to utilise this consenting pathway is reliant on a successful referral application. We will make a referral application once initial site surveys and discussions with mana whenua have been completed.

In the first instance, I would be grateful if you could confirm that you are still the correct contact person for Ngāti Hinerangi and secondly, if are interested in being involved or will continue to allow others to take the lead in this space. If you do wish to be involved I would welcome the opportunity arrange a hui and introduce the project. Please feel free to respond to this email or give me a call on 021 367 143 to discuss next steps and arrange a hui.

Ngā mihi,

Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: § 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

--

s 9(2)(a)

EA to CE s 9(2)(a) I Communications I Social Funding

M: s 9(2)(a)

E: s 9(2)(a)

W: www.ngatihinerangiwi.co.nz



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--

s 9(2)(a)

EA to CE s 9(2)(a) I Communications I Social Funding

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--

s 9(2)(a)

EA to CE s 9(2)(a) I Communications I Social Funding

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From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)
Cc: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Catch Up - Tauhei Extension s 9(2)(a)
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:15:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora s 9(2),
(^)

Can you please confirm what time you would like to meet on Friday?

Additionally, recent changes to the Fast Track Approvals Act mean section 11 now requires formal notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace any of the korero that we (and/or Lisa and I) have already had, or our intention to continue working collaboratively with you throughout the life of the project. Rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Tuesday, 26 May 2026 11:11 am
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Catch Up - Tauhei Extension and Hinuera

Morena s 9(2)
(^)

Friday works for me – I have one meeting from 10.30-11.30, but am otherwise free, so name your time and I'll send a meeting request.

s 9(2)(a)

Cheers,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 May 2026 10:39 am
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Catch Up - Tauhei Extension s 9(2)(a)

Friday 29th 12pm suit you?

Im back into work properly form yesterday.

Apologies for timing. s 9(2)(a)

Lets talk extensions s 9(2)(a) on Friday,

Mauri ora.

s 9(2)(a) | Director
Te Hira Consultant Ltd
P: s 9(2)(a)
A: s 9(2)(a)

From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 2:53 PM
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Catch Up - Tauhei Extension s 9(2)(a)

Kia ora s 9(2)

Further to our conversation today, it would be good to book in a time to have a korero about both Tauhei Extension and Hinuera. I appreciate you are off work with a bereavement for the next few days, so I have set out below my current availability for the next week or so. If you could please let me know what would suit you I will get something in our calendars:

- Friday (22nd) – anytime except 10.30-11.30
- Monday (25th) – anytime except 9.30-10
- Tuesday (26th) – anytime after 11.30
- Wednesday (27th) - anytime except 10-10.30 or 1.30-2.30
- Thursday (28th) – anytime except 1-2pm or after 4
- Friday (29th) – anytime except 10.30-11.30

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



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From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Tauhei Extension
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:11:00 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Kia ora s 9(2)

Further to the below, recent changes to section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, now requires formally notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that our intention is to continue working collaboratively with you throughout the life of the project and this email is not intended to restrict that in any way, rather it is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Tuesday, 26 May 2026 11:30 am
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Tauhei Extension

Kia ora s 9(2)

Just touching base on the below. If you could let me know when would suit you to meet I will set something up.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 2:09 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Tauhei Extension

Kia ora Alice,

Thank you for coming back to me so quickly, that is much appreciated. I could do the following days/times based on your work from home days, but I am also happy to do a later meeting (i.e. out of normal office hours) if that makes it easier for you:

- Friday 24th – anytime except 10am-11am
- Tuesday 28th – anytime after 11am
- Wednesday 29th – anytime except 11-12 or 1.30-2.30
- Friday 1st May – anytime except 10.30-11am
- Monday 4th May - anytime

Let me know what works for you, I look forward to connecting.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



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From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 1:52 pm
To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Tauhei Extension

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the project with you. We understand that Ngāti Tumutumu have been mainly involved in this project and respect their engagement. I have also seen the Tauhei Solar Farm CIA that was done by s 9(2)(a) and you are correct, there was no input from Ngāti Hako.

In saying this I am interested with the extension of Harmony's opportunities to expand into Kerepeehi and potentially other areas, then we would welcome a conversation.

Let me know what dates suite. I do have a full time job, but can plan around on the days I am working from home (which are usually Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays.

I look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Ngā mihi,

s 9(2)(a)

Trustee

s 9(2)(a)



From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 4:03 PM

To: s 9(2)(a)

Subject: Tauhei Extension

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

I am emailing regarding an upcoming solar project at Te Aroha West (the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension), which we understand is the rohe of Ngāti Hako.

You may already be aware of our project at Te Aroha West (known as Tauhei Solar Farm), a 150MW solar farm which is currently under construction. That project was consented by Harmony Energy NZ and is being delivered in partnership between Harmony Energy NZ and First Renewables/Igneo.

We understand that Ngāti Hako were invited to engage during the consent process for the existing project, however some confusion regarding the location of the site (likely due to the naming of the project) at the time meant Ngāti Hako choose not to be involved. As we are now looking to develop the adjacent extension, we would welcome the opportunity to re-establish contact and invite Ngāti Hako to be a part of the process of project development

from the outset.

Harmony Energy NZ

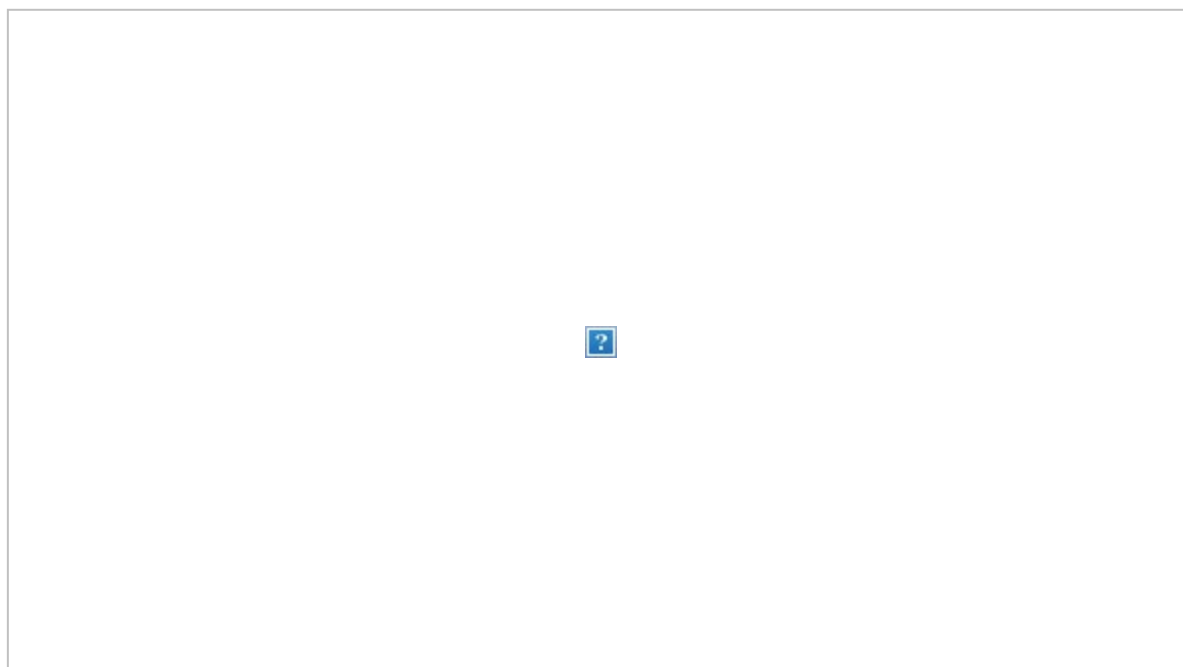
Harmony Energy is leading the development of the extension project. Harmony Energy is an independent New Zealand based company lead by Pete Grogan. Pete returned to Aotearoa in 2022 to be closer to family and is a founding shareholder and director of the business. Pete is also a shareholder and director of Harmony's European businesses that build, own and operate wind, solar and battery energy storage assets in the UK, France, Germany and Poland.

I am Harmony Energy's Planning Director and will be managing all aspects of the consenting process, as well as remaining involved in the project through construction and operation.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waiheka Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
			Total



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting Approach

Our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. Central to this approach is engaging early with in a mana whenua to understand the cultural values associated with the site and surrounds at the outset of the project as well as working alongside mana whenua throughout the development of the project.

In the first instance I would be grateful if you could confirm that you are the correct contact person for Ngāti Hako and/or if there are others within your organisation I should also be engaging with. If Ngāti Hako are interested in being involved, I would welcome the opportunity to arrange an introductory hui. Please feel free to respond to this email or give me a call on 021 367 143 to discuss next steps and arrange a hui.

I look forward to the opportunity to begin the process of relationship development (whakawhanaungatanga) and face to face contract (kanohi ki te knohi).

Ngā mihi,

Christina

Christina Walker

Planning Director – New Zealand

Mobile: § 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:03:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

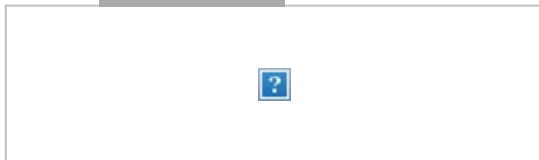
Kia ora,

Further to the below, recent changes to section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act now require formally notification of a referral application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace or restrict any further consultation with you, rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Nga Mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: Christina Walker
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:10 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora,

Harmony Energy New Zealand are in the preliminary stages of developing a proposal for the extension of our solar farm at Te Aroha West (known as the 'Tauhei Solar Farm', which is currently under construction. You may already be aware of the Tauhei Solar Farm, a 150MW solar farm which was consented by Harmony Energy and is being delivered in partnership between Harmony Energy NZ and First Renewables/Igneo.

We understand that Ngāti Maru were invited to engage during the consent process for the existing project, but at that time it was decided Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Tumutumu and Ngaati Whanaunga were mana whenua in respect of the site and would take the lead from a cultural perspective. Nonetheless, given that the site is located within Ngāti Maru area of interest, I am reaching out to ensure you are kept informed about the extension project and have the opportunity to be involved, should you wish to do so. Accordingly, the following introduces both Harmony Energy and the project.

Harmony Energy NZ

Harmony Energy is leading the development of the extension project. Harmony Energy is an independent New Zealand based company lead by Pete Grogan. Pete returned to Aotearoa in 2022 to be closer to family and is a founding shareholder and director of the business. Pete is also a shareholder and director of Harmony's European businesses that build, own and operate wind, solar and battery energy storage assets in the UK, France, Germany and Poland.

I am Harmony Energy's Planning Director and will be managing all aspects of the consenting process, as well as remaining involved in the project through construction and operation.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waihekau Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting Approach

Our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. Central to this approach is engaging early with in a mana whenua to understand the cultural values associated with the site and surrounds at the outset of the project as well as working alongside mana whenua throughout the development of the project.

At this stage, the intention is to consent the project through the Fast Track Approvals Act, however, as you are likely aware our ability to utilise this consenting pathway is reliant on a successful referral application. We will make a referral application once initial site surveys and discussions with mana whenua have been completed.

In the first instance, I would be grateful if you could confirm that these are the correct contact details for Ngāti Maru and/or if there are others within your organisation I should also be engaging with. If Ngāti Maru are interested in being involved, I would welcome the opportunity to arrange an introductory hui. Please feel free to respond to this email or give me a call on 021 367 143 to discuss next steps and arrange a hui.

Ngā mihi,

Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: [Christina Walker](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:10:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

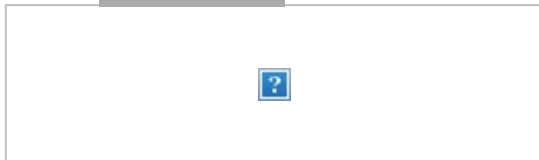
Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Further to the below recent changes to section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, now requires formally notification of an application to be provided to all relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities. Accordingly, please take this email as formal notification that we will be making a referral application in respect of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project. Please provide any formal or additional comments within 20 working days.

Please note that this is not intended to replace or restrict any further consultation with you, rather this email is intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Ngā mihi,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



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From: Christina Walker
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:08 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

Harmony Energy New Zealand are in the preliminary stages of developing a proposal for the extension of our solar farm at Te Aroha West (known as the 'Tauhei Solar Farm', which is currently under construction. You may already be aware of the Tauhei Solar Farm, a 150MW solar farm which was consented by Harmony Energy and is being delivered in partnership between Harmony Energy NZ and First Renewables/Igneo.

We understand that Ngāti Tara Tokanui were invited to engage during the consent process for the existing project, but at that time it was decided Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Tumutumu and Ngaati Whanaunga were mana whenua in respect of the site and would take the lead from a cultural perspective. Nonetheless, given that the site is located within Ngāti Tara Tokanui area of interest, I am reaching out to ensure you are kept informed about the extension project and have the opportunity to be involved, should you wish to do so. Accordingly, the following introduces both Harmony Energy and the project.

Harmony Energy NZ

Harmony Energy is leading the development of the extension project. Harmony Energy is an independent New Zealand based company lead by Pete Grogan. Pete returned to Aotearoa in 2022 to be closer to family and is a founding shareholder and director of the business. Pete is also a shareholder and director of Harmony's European businesses that build, own and operate wind, solar and battery energy storage assets in the UK, France, Germany and Poland.

I am Harmony Energy's Planning Director and will be managing all aspects of the consenting process, as well as remaining involved in the project through construction and operation.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waihekau Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648

The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting Approach

Our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. Central to this approach is engaging early with in a mana whenua to understand the cultural values associated with the site and surrounds at the outset of the project as well as working alongside mana whenua throughout the development of the project.

At this stage, the intention is to consent the project through the Fast Track Approvals Act, however, as you are likely aware our ability to utilise this consenting pathway is reliant on a successful referral application. We will make a referral application once initial site surveys and discussions with mana whenua have been completed.

In the first instance, I would be grateful if you could confirm that you are the correct contact person for Ngāti Tara Tokanui and/or if there are others within your organisation I should also be engaging with. If Ngāti Tara Tokanui are interested in being involved, I would welcome the opportunity to arrange an introductory hui. Please feel free to respond to this email or give me a call on 021 367 143 to discuss next steps and arrange a hui.

Ngā mihi,

Christina

Christina Walker

Planning Director – New Zealand

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



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Appendix C: Local Authority Notices and Responses

From: s 9(2)(a)
To: [Christina Walker](#)
Cc: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Tauhei Extension - Referral Application
Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2026 9:35:22 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Tauhei Solar Farm extension MPDC letter.pdf](#)

Hi Christina,

Please find the attached letter outlining our comments on the referral application for the Tauhei Solar Farm extension.

Thank you,

s 9(2)(a)

Kaiārahi Whakaaetanga Rauemi | Team Leader Resource Consents
Te Kaunihera Ā-rohe o Matamata-Piako | Matamata-Piako District Council
35 Kenrick Street, PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342
07 884 0060 | mpdc.govt.nz

From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:56
To: s 9(2)(a)
Cc: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Tauhei Extension - Referral Application

ATTENTION! This e-mail originates from outside of the council. Do not open attachments or click links unless you are sure this e-mail comes from a known sender and you know the content is safe.

Hi s 9(2)(a)

Further to our meeting in April, the purpose of this email is to notify you that we will be submitting a referral application for an extension to the Tauhei Solar Farm.

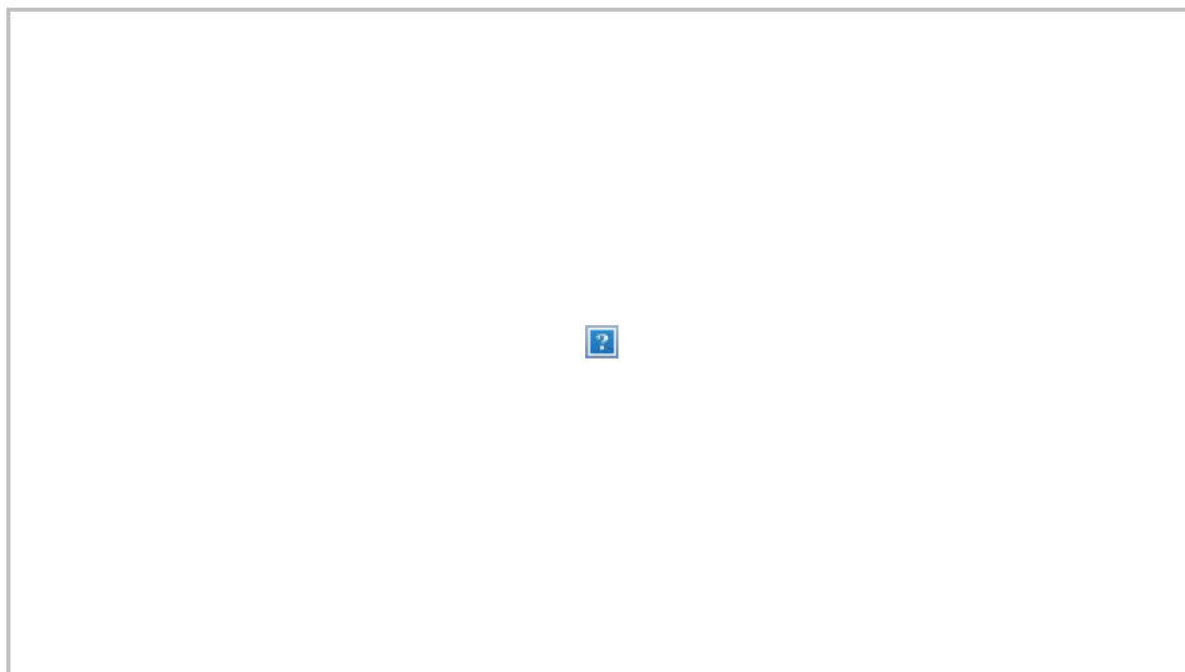
Some details of the project are set out below.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is

detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waihekau Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting/Development Approach

Our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. We are nearing completion of site studies and initial engagement with mana whenua. Following the completion of this work a draft concept plan will be prepared and will form the basis of our referral application.

We have yet to complete any detailed rule assessment or effects assessment but will be in touch with you when we get to that stage of the development.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, please provide any comments relevant to the referral application within 20 working days. Alternatively, or additionally, I would be happy to meet again if you see benefit in further discussion.

With thanks,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

Harmony Energy New Zealand

Attn: Christina Walker

Proposed Tauhei Solar Farm Extension – Fast-Track Process Application

This letter acknowledges that Harmony Energy New Zealand has engaged with the Matamata-Piako District Council (the Council) regarding its proposed Tauhei Solar Farm extension and its intention to submit an application through the Fast-Track process.

Council acknowledges the potential national and regional benefits associated with renewable energy generation and the expansion of solar infrastructure. Council also notes that the environmental, social and infrastructure effects of such developments are often experienced at a local level and will require careful consideration through the approvals process.

However, Council requests that the following matters be carefully considered and addressed through the referral application and subsequent assessment process. These comments are provided in accordance with section 11 of the Fast-track Approvals Act and are directed toward matters relevant to the referral of the project, rather than a detailed assessment of effects.

1. Overall Position on Referral

Council does not oppose the referral of the project into the Fast-track approvals process. Council recognises the potential contribution the project may make to renewable electricity generation and supply resilience. Council's comments are provided on the basis of the information currently available and should not be interpreted as support for the project itself or any future approvals that may be sought.

2. Nature and Scale of the Proposal

Council notes that the proposal involves an extension to the existing Tauhei Solar Farm across multiple titles, covers an area of approximately 95.648 hectares, with additional generation of approximately 50MWac.

Council considers that the scale and strategic nature of the proposal are consistent with projects that may be appropriate for Fast-track consideration.

3. Suitability for Fast-track Process

Council considers that the proposal is generally suitable for referral, noting that the project is an extension of an existing, and consented renewable energy facility which

also went through a similar fast-track process. Environmental and technical constraints are being identified early through a design-led approach.

Based on the information currently available, the proposal appears to be sufficiently developed to be considered for referral through the Fast-track process. Council notes that further assessment will be required as part of any subsequent approvals process.

4. Matters That Will Require Careful Consideration (at Substantive Stage)

While not opposing referral, Council notes that the following matters will require detailed assessment if the project proceeds:

- Land use and rural character effects, including implications for productive rural land
- Infrastructure and roading effects, particularly during construction
- Landscape and visual effects, including cumulative effects with the existing solar farm, potential effects on views to and from recognised landscape features, and any effects on views towards the Kamaia Range, which is identified as a Outstanding or Significant Natural Feature in the District Plan.
- Ecological and environmental effects
- Stormwater management and land stability
- Cultural values and engagement with mana whenua

These matters are not considered to preclude referral but will be important considerations at the approvals stage.

5. Council Involvement

Council understands that it will be invited to provide comments and technical input during subsequent stages of the Fast-track process in accordance with the Fast-track Approvals Act. Council remains available to provide information relating to local infrastructure, servicing requirements, and relevant District Plan provisions as the proposal develops.

Council does not oppose the referral of the Tauhei Solar Farm Extension into the Fast-track approvals process and requests that the matters identified in this letter be carefully considered through the referral and subsequent approval stages.

s 9(2)(a)



Planning Manager

Matamata-Piako District Council

Group Manager Growth and Regulation

Matamata-Piako District Council

From: s 9(2)
To: [Christina Walker](#)
Subject: RE: Tauhei Extension - Referral Application
Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 4:41:14 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Christina,

Request received.

I've forwarded the request to my Team Leader s 9(2)(a) . He oversees the Fast-track applications with council.

In short, the WRC Policy team co-ordinate the council's initial comments in the pre-referral stage. Either Hugh or someone from Policy will be in contact to discuss the referral application.

Kind regards,

s
9(2)

s 9(2)(a) | SENIOR CONSENTS OFFICER | Resource Consents - Team 3, Resource Use
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL | Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato
P: s 9(2)(a)
M: s 9(2)(a)
F: facebook.com/waikatoregion
Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton, 3240

From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 3:54 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Tauhei Extension - Referral Application

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Waikato Regional Council. Do not follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 9(2)
(a)

I hope this email finds you well.

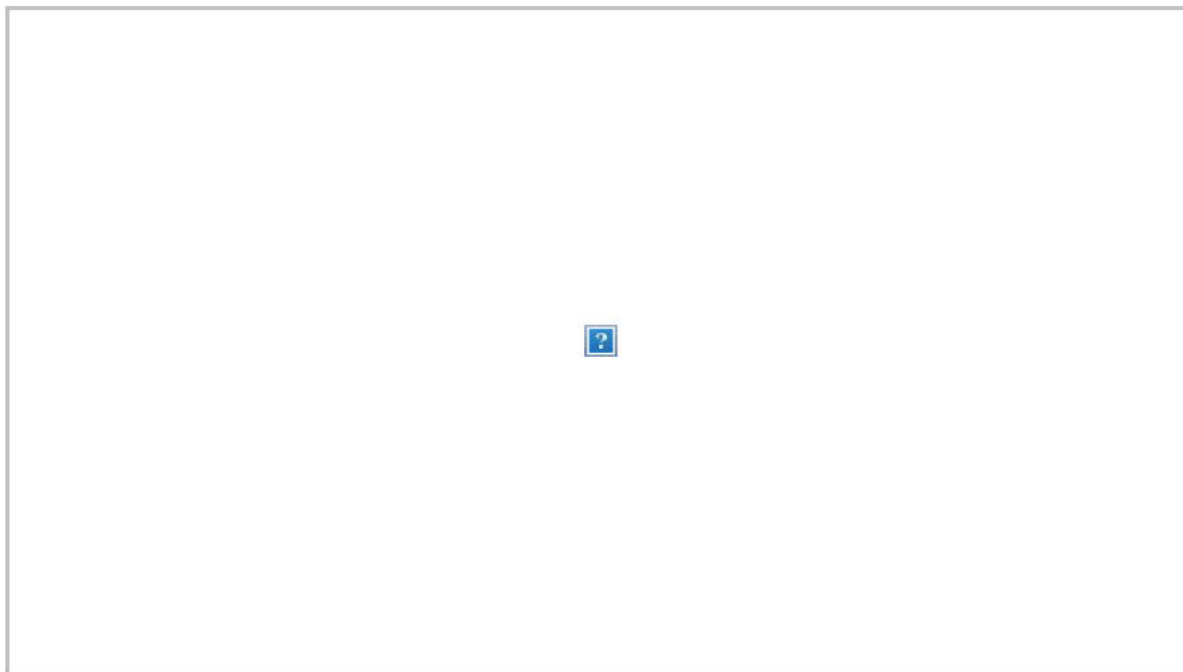
The purpose of this email is to notify you that we will be submitting a referral application for an extension to the Tauhei Solar Farm. Some details of the project are set out below.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553

154670	126 Waiheke Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

Consenting/Development Approach

Our intention is to take a design-led approach to the development of the project, which means seeking to understand environmental and engineering constraints (e.g. soil, ecological, landscape) and cultural values associated with the site prior to advancing design. This approach allows the project to be shaped in a way that responds appropriately to the whenua and avoids, where practicable, impacts that would otherwise require retroactive mitigation or late-stage design changes. We are nearing completion of site studies and initial engagement with mana whenua. Following the completion of this work a draft concept plan will be prepared and will form the basis of our referral application.

We have yet to complete any detailed rule assessment or effects assessment but will be in touch with you when we get to that stage of the development.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, please provide any comments relevant to the referral application within 20 working days. Alternatively, or additionally, I would be happy to meet to discuss this project at a time that suits you.

With thanks,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

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From: s 9(2)(a)
To: [Christina Walker](#)
Subject: Tauhei Extension - Referral Application
Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2026 1:41:20 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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Kia ora Christina

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposal by Harmony Energy Ltd prior to referral stage.

WRC staff have reviewed the information and have comments on ecology, wetland ecology, land drainage network, soils, flooding, and consenting.

The comments are as follows:

-

Acid Sulfate Soils

The site is identified through WRC maps as being predominantly high probability of acid sulfate soils. When disturbed (e.g. excavated) and exposed to oxygen, acid sulfate soil materials can produce sulfuric acid which can become mobilised following rainfall. This can lead to impacts on the environment, including aquatic ecosystems, and infrastructure.

Further assessment is required if:

- A. your activity is located within an area of WRC's regional mapping that is identified as having a 'medium' or 'high' probability of occurrence of acid sulfate soils AND
- B. your activity includes land disturbance >250m³, AND
- C. one or more of the following apply: will be deeper than 1m, and/or is associated with a drainage activity, and/or if there are any other factors associated with your proposed activity that might increase the risk of disturbance of acid sulfate soils.

If these criteria apply, the risk that acid sulfate soils will be disturbed will need to be assessed with reference to Waikato Regional Council's acid sulfate soils technical guidance ([waikatoregion.govt.nz/TR202525/](#)) and, if required, a management plan will be needed to set out how the development will avoid, minimise and/or manage formation of acid leaching effects of actual acid sulfate soils.

-

Wetlands

WRC does not currently have any wetlands mapped for the site, and no areas stand out on aerial imagery. However, we expect an ecological assessment to be undertaken. This would include a review of available data, as well as a site walk over and assessment of any areas seen that are potentially wetland (following MfE wetland delineation protocols as appropriate).

-

Ecology

The ecological effects assessment that supported the previous fast-track application provided evidence of bats, birds, and lizards. As the site of the proposed extension contains vegetation commensurate with habitat for these taxa and identification through the previous

fast track application of these taxa or potential habitat on site, assessments will need to be completed.

-

Flooding

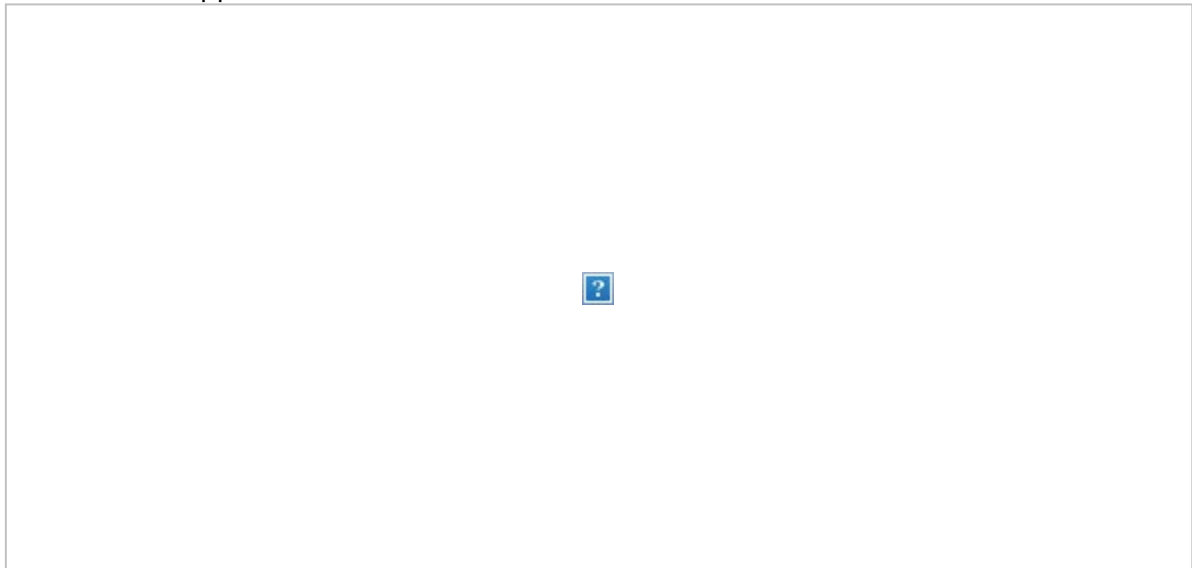
WRC modelling is still a work in progress and is not complete for this area, however our modelling suggests that during a 1% AEP rainfall event there will be flooding across the site. Much of this is likely to be shallow and may not be an issue for the proposed land use. There are, however, some areas where deeper ponding/flows will occur. We suggest undertaking your own analysis to ensure that the flood risk is well understood.

-

Land drainage network

WRC provided comments on the previous fast track consent for the Tauhei Solar Farm which emphasised that the ongoing functionality and maintenance requirements of the land drainage network must be retained as a fundamental requirement. The same principles are relevant to this proposed extension.

The figure below shows the WRC drains (indicated by blue dashed line) on the sites subject to the referral application.



Drainage and hydrological function

Previous WRC feedback:

- Drainage performance should not be compromised, including downstream effects.

For the extension application, we request:

- Identification of all existing drainage infrastructure
- Demonstration that the proposal will:
 - maintain channel capacity and conveyance, and
 - avoid adverse effects on the wider drainage network

Maintenance access

Previous WRC feedback:

- ongoing access for maintenance of drains (e.g. excavation and vegetation management) must be retained.

For the extension application, we request:

- Solar infrastructure, fencing, and planting should:
 - maintain access corridors along drains, and
 - avoid constraining machinery access

Layout, setbacks, and planting design

Previous WRC feedback:

- planting and land use must be designed to avoid obstructing flows or limiting access, including careful species selection and placement (e.g. avoiding large plants close to channel edges).

For the extension application we request:

- Appropriate setbacks from drains should be incorporated into the design
- Any planting should:
 - be compatible with drainage function,
 - allow for maintenance, and
 - avoid future obstruction risks

Construction phase

As with the original development there is a need to manage:

- sediment discharge
- disturbance to drains
- temporary blockage risks

Appropriate erosion and sediment controls will be required.

Stormwater and runoff management

Consistent with earlier concerns around hydrology:

- changes to land cover (including solar arrays) should be assessed for effects such as:
 - altered runoff patterns
 - erosion and sediment risks

Consenting

Given the site's relatively flat topography, earthworks across much of the site is likely able to be undertaken as a permitted activity (subject to compliance with permitted activity rule conditions). However, any earthworks in the vicinity of modified watercourses and/or wetland will likely trigger the requirement for land use consent for earthworks in a high risk erosion area.

Potential consents may be needed for:

- Cleanfill, inclusive of aggregate for tracking, if it exceeds the Waikato Regional Plan (WRP) rule 5.2.5.4 volume limit of 2,500 cubic metres per annum, consent will be needed under Rule 5.2.5.5 as a controlled activity.
- Dewatering of trenches for cable installation. The WRC practice is to treat this as a groundwater diversion in accordance with rule 3.6.4.13. The surface water take of daylighted groundwater is assessed as a non-complying activity in accordance with

rule 3.3.4.26 of the WRP. The discharge of water to water during dewatering activities may be a permitted activity as per rule 3.5.4.4 of the WRP, alternatively, consent may be required and will be determined by the selected discharge methodology (inclusive of receiving environment).

- If there are any works within, and within 10 m of a wetland, land use consent under the NES-FW for works will be required in accordance with Regulation 45 discretionary activities - construction of specified infrastructure.
- As mentioned above, WRC OurMaps Acid Sulfate Soil layer confirms that there is a high probability of the presence of acid sulfate soils within the new site. Given the limited earthwork extent proposed, this is unlikely to be an issue. However, it needs to be addressed and closed out via the AEE, should the application be accepted for fast track.
- Providing the substation/transformers are appropriately bundled and intercepted, the requirement for stormwater consent under the WRP will not be triggered.

Highly Productive Land

As the site is classified under the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory's land use capability system as LUC 1 class soils, the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land applies.

If you have any questions or would like to engage in further discussion, feel free to get in touch with me.

Ngā mihi

s 9(2)(a) | POLICY ADVISOR | Policy Implementation, Science, Policy and Information
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL | Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato
P: s 9(2)(a)
F: facebook.com/waikatoregion
Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton, 3240

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Appendix D: Neighbours Letter



30 April 2026

Dear Neighbour,

This letter is to provide you with an update on the proposed Tauhei Solar Farm Extension project.

You may be aware that Harmony Energy New Zealand previously obtained a Fast-track referral for an extension to the Tauhei Solar Farm on land located on McKinley Road. That land became unavailable and we are now proposing to extend the solar farm by using land located at 311 Mikkelsen Road and 126 Waiheka Road. A map showing the proposed location is attached at the end of this letter.

In developing the extension, we will follow the process broadly set out below:

- Identify constraints associated with the site. This includes an assessment of factors such as topography, flooding, soil conditions, ecology, neighbouring property locations, landscape features, cultural values, archaeology, and site access options.
- High-Level Concept Design. Once constraints are understood, high-level concept plans are developed with the aim to avoid adverse effects where possible. These plans will illustrate details such as site layout, vehicle access, infrastructure placement, and planting areas.
- Consideration of effects. Through stakeholder engagement and technical reporting, we will identify any remaining adverse effects and seek to avoid or mitigate them through design changes or by additional mitigation measures.
- Finalisation of Concept Plans and Consenting. Once the above steps are complete, the concept plans will be finalised and consent will be sought for the project. At this stage the intention is to apply for consent through the Fast Track Approvals Act. This is a two-step process, which is described in more detail later in this letter.

We are currently at the very beginning of the process outlined above, with site studies scheduled to be undertaken in the coming weeks. This means that we don't yet have any

designs or project plans, however, we wanted to share the location of the project with you at this early stage, as we recognise that this information is likely to be important to you.

As neighbours, we are committed to keeping you informed and seeking your feedback as we move through the process and we will share additional information (including draft concept plans) with you as it becomes available.

Fast Track Approvals Process

The Fast Track Approvals Act provides a pathway for consents to be considered and decided by an Expert Consenting Panel.

In order for a project to be considered under the Fast Track Approvals Act, it must either be specifically listed in the Act or referred to the process following an application.

We plan to make an application to the Ministry for the Environment to refer the project to the Fast-track. If that application is successful, a substantive application will be made to the Environmental Protection Authority once full details of the project are developed.

You can access more information about the Fast Track Approvals process at www.fasttrack.govt.nz.

Contact Details and Neighbours Register

We are committed to being a respectful and considerate neighbour and to keeping you informed as we work through the development of this project. To support this, we invite you to register your interest with us by joining our Neighbours Register.

The Neighbours Register will help us provide you with regular updates, seek your feedback, organise in person or virtual meetings and generally maintain two-way communication throughout the project.

If you would like to join the neighbours register, please send an email to

s 9(2)(a) with your:

- Name
- Physical and postal address
- Email address
- Phone number.

I am Harmony Energy's Planning Director and will be taking the lead on the development of the Resource Consent for this project. Accordingly, I will be your key point of contact throughout the project, and you are welcome to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in greater detail.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walker'.

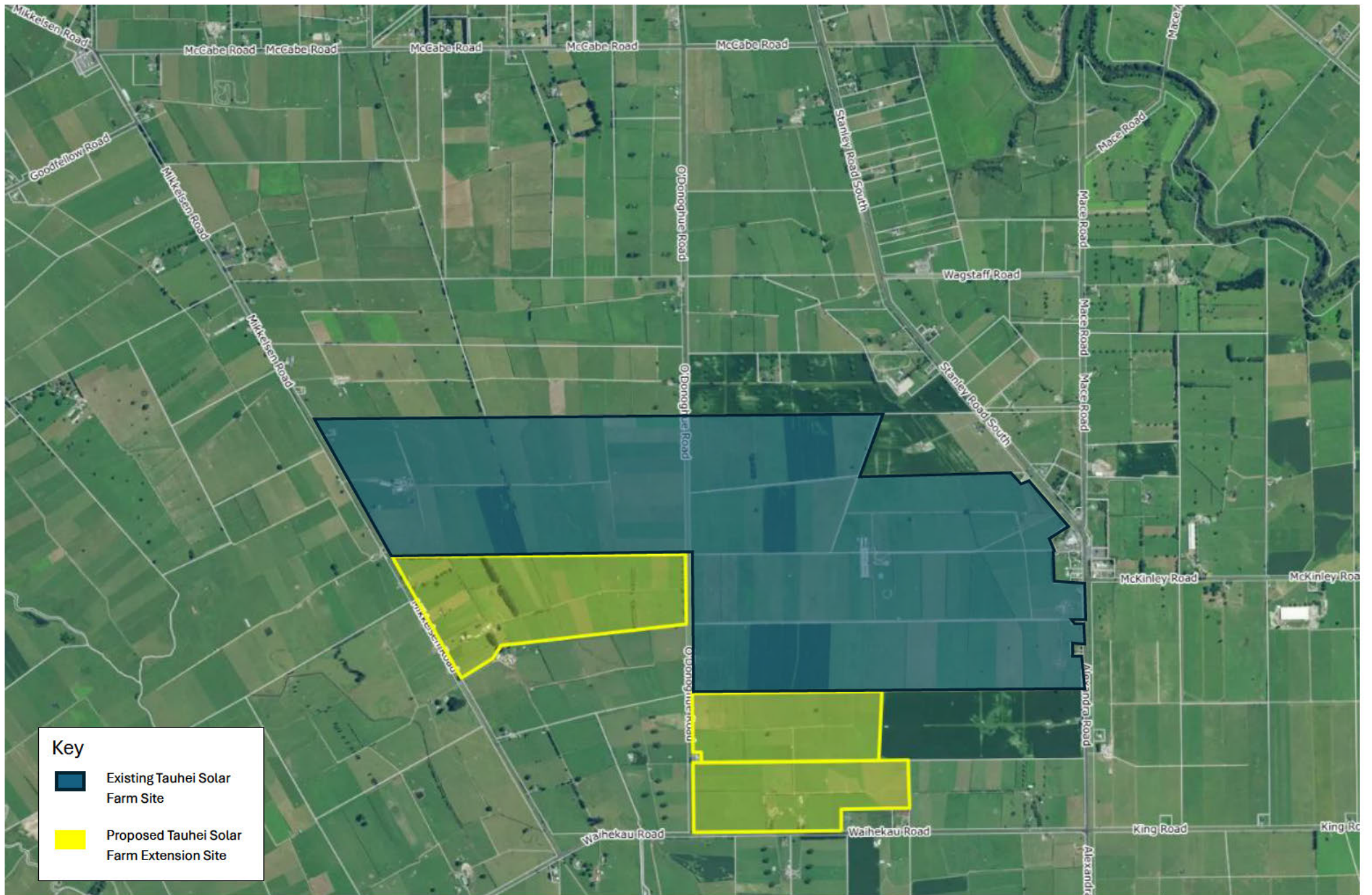
Christina Walker

Planning Director

Harmony Energy New Zealand

Ph **s 9(2)(a)**

Attached: Map of Site Location



Tauhei Solar Farm Extension – Proposed Site Location

Appendix E: Department of Conservation Notice and Response

From: [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#)
To: [Christina Walker](#); [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#)
Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension - Referral Application Notification
Date: Friday, 29 May 2026 11:15:29 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora Christina,

Thank you for notifying DOC of your intention to lodge your fast-track approvals application.

If the project is referred, we would request as you have indicated below, that you re-engage with DOC before lodging a substantive application if the application is to include a wildlife approval (or any other DOC approvals).

Please note, we encourage all applicants to allow at least 4-6 weeks for effective pre-lodgement engagement with DOC.

Ngā mihi,

s 9(2)(a)

On behalf of the Fast-track Applications team
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2026 9:50 am
To: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension - Referral Application Notification

You don't often get email from s 9(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning s 9(2)

Thank you for your response.

At this stage we are just completing the referral application and allowing for a possible wildlife permit(s) in respect of bats and/or lizards in the event any are discovered during extended surveys. Accordingly, no feedback is required at this time, rather the intent of the notification was just to let you know that the referral application will include reference to a possible wildlife permit(s).

Once we have those survey results, and in the event, we do require a wildlife permit(s), I will complete the required form and we will engage with you in respect of the development of that wildlife permit application.

With thanks,

Christina

Christina Walker

Planning Director – New Zealand

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

From: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 29 May 2026 9:20 am

To: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)

FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: DOC Info <info@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension - Referral Application Notification

Tēnā koe Christina,

Thank you for engaging with DOC on your Fast-track Approvals application.

Could you please fill out the pre-lodgement notification form, and the new customer form, both found on our website [here](#).

Fast-track (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025 and DOCs Fast-track Cost Recovery Policy were published on 7 February 2025. Under the fast-track Cost Recovery regime applicants are required to pay a minimum estimate of costs for DOC's response to pre-lodgement notification. Once the completed forms have been received, we will send you an invoice for the initial estimate of minimum costs. We will also then be happy to arrange a high-level meeting to discuss your project if that is preferable to you.

In the meantime, it would be useful for DOC to have some more information in relation to the fast-track project, in particular:

- Is there a specific part of your application that you would like feedback from DOC?
- Do you have an indicative date for the lodgement of your substantive application if the current application is referred?
 - Would you like to engage further with DOC before your substantive application is lodged?

Any additional information you can provide would be appreciated. There may be further questions that pop up while we assess the draft application you have provided.

Please note, we encourage all applicants to allow at least 4-6 weeks for effective pre-lodgement engagement with DOC.

Ngā mihi,

s 9(2)(a)

On behalf of the Fast-track Applications team
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

From: Christina Walker s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2026 12:02 pm
To: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <fasttrackapplicationenquiries@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: DOC Info <info@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Tauhei Solar Farm Extension - Referral Application Notification

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s 9(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

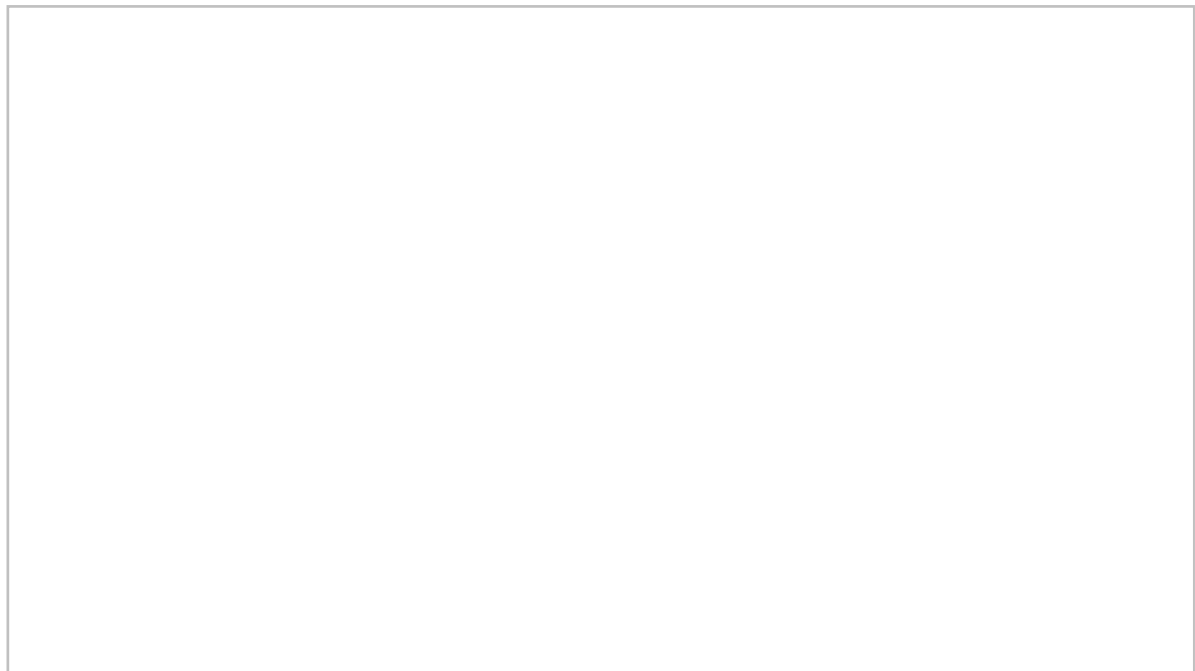
I hope this email finds you well.

The purpose of this email is to notify you that we will be submitting a referral application for an extension to the Tauhei Solar Farm. Some details of the project are set out below.

The Project

The Tauhei Solar Farm Extension is proposed across two records of title (three parcels) as is detailed in the table and image below. The area shaded blue denotes the existing Tauhei Solar Farm project footprint.

Title Reference	Address	Legal Description	Size (ha)
SA281/194	311 Mikkelsen Road	Lot 1 DP 12172	45.1553
154670	126 Waihekau Road	Lot 2 DP 337667	24.5212
		Lot 1 DP 8280	25.9715
		Total	95.648



The project will allow for the development approximately 50MWac of additional solar energy generation with electricity exported to the grid via the existing substation within the Tauhei Solar Farm.

DOC Approvals

-

At this stage we are uncertain whether any wildlife approvals will be required as monitoring for both lizards and bats is ongoing. However, to ensure all basis are covered we will include wildlife permits in our referral application.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Fast Track Approvals Act, please provide any comments relevant to the referral application within 20 working days.

With thanks,
Christina

Christina Walker
Planning Director – New Zealand
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)



www.harmonyenergy.co.nz

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