

FTAA-2508-1095

3 October 2025

Penny Nelson
Director-General of Conservation
Department of Conservation
C/- Fast-track team
By email: fast-track@doc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

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

Contact Energy Limited has lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 29 August 2025. The Southland Wind Farm application relates to a proposal to construct, operate and maintain a wind farm (and associated infrastructure) in Slopedown, Southland.

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

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

- In respect of the concession on land that is vested in the Crown under **section 42(4)(e)** of the Act, a report prepared by the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with **clause 4 of Schedule 6** of the Act:
- In respect of the wildlife approval under **section 42(4)(h)** of the Act, a report prepared by the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with **clause 3 of Schedule 7** of the Act:
- In respect of the complex freshwater fisheries activity approval under **section 42(4)(j)** of the Act, a report prepared by the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with **clause 4 of Schedule 9** of the Act

The panel convener has issued a Minute dated 3 October 2025 which outlines the panel convenor's directions in more detail. The Minute is attached to this letter.

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Fast-track is administered by the Environmental Protection Authority
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The Department of Conservation must provide the reports within 10 working days after the panel invites comments under section 53 of the Act.

If you have any questions please contact Keely Paler, Application Lead, by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keely Paler', written in a cursive style.

Keely Paler

Application Lead, Fast-track Applications