

Haldon Solar Project – Evidence of Ecological Management Plan

LODESTONE ENERGY LIMITED
HALDON SOLAR PROJECT
Ecological Management Plan

Evidence of Dr Peter Ross Espie from AgScience Ltd
Regarding Ecological Management Plan of the Haldon Solar Project Effects and Proposed
Conditions

INTRODUCTION

My name is Peter Ross Espie.

My role in relation to the Haldon Solar Project has been to provide expert ecological advice in relation to Haldon Solar Project. I wrote the Haldon Solar Project Ecological Impact Assessment which is provided with the application.

While this application is not being considered by the Environment Court, I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023 and that I have complied with it when preparing this evidence.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

B.Ag Sci first class Honours, PhD in Fescue tussock grassland ecology, led the Mackenzie Ecological Region Protected Natural Areas Survey, Director of the QEII National Trust, Research Fellow at Otago University, 20 years as Crown Research Institute scientist and 22 years as managing director of a research company specializing in High Country ecology and management.

I am currently employed as the managing director of AgScience Limited and have held that position since 2004.

My previous work experience includes fundamental research in South Island indigenous and exotic species and community ecology, lecturing, student Honours to PhD student thesis supervisor, High Country Tenure review assessment, Environment Court expert witness and conference presentations.

EVIDENCE

In response to comments made by section 53 parties, Lodestone has prepared Addendum 3 which contains an Ecological Management Plan. I provided advice to Lodestone which informed the contents of the Ecological Management Plan in respect of Botany. That advice

was within my area of expertise and I confirm the Ecological Management Plan contains an accurate and appropriate description of the botanical values at the site, the actual and potential effects of the Haldon Solar Project. I confirm the recommended actions to manage those effects have been accurately captured in the Ecological Management Plan and I am of the opinion that those actions will ensure adverse effects on botany are no more than minor.

Dated this 10 day of February 2025.



P.R. Espie