

Under the **FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024**
In the matter of an application for resource consents, concessions, wildlife approvals, an archaeological authority, and approvals relating to complex freshwater fisheries activities in relation to the Southland Wind Farm project
By **CONTACT ENERGY LIMITED**
Applicant

**MEMORANDUM OF COUNSEL FOR CONTACT ENERGY LIMITED
RESPONDING TO COMMENTS ON DRAFT CONDITIONS**

27 March 2026

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MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL:

1. This memorandum of counsel on behalf of Contact Energy Limited (**Contact**) is filed in response to comments made by others on the draft conditions.
2. The responses provided in this memorandum should be read alongside Contact's own primary comments on the draft conditions, which were provided to the Panel on 23 March 2026.
3. Contact's responses to comments are set out in table form in **Appendix 1** to this memorandum. In particular, Appendix 1 includes responses to the comments on the draft conditions made by:
 - (a) Environment Southland;
 - (b) Southland District Council;
 - (c) Director-General of Conservation;
 - (d) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga;
 - (e) Environmental Defence Society; and
 - (f) West Catlins Preservation Society (**WCPS**).
4. The Minister for Māori Development and for Māori Crown Relations, Minister for the South Island, Minister for Rural Communities, Gore District Council and Te Ao Mārama Inc (**TAMI**) confirmed they have no comments on / suggested changes to conditions.
5. Southland Conservation Board and Hamish Robinson reiterated their overall opposition to the Application, but did not make any specific condition suggestions. Contact does not provide any specific response to those comments. However, Contact acknowledges Mr Robinson's engagement with the Project, and consenting processes, over the last several years.
6. WCPS has provided detailed comments on a broad range of conditions. Contact acknowledges WCPS's engagement in the consenting process, including the draft conditions. To a large extent, WCPS's comments reflect WCPS's ongoing opposition to the Project. That said, Contact has carefully considered the WCPS comments, and provides its responses in the table in Appendix 1 (generally by condition subject matter rather than point-by-point). As indicated in the table, there are several specific condition amendments sought by WCPS that Contact would be comfortable with.

7. However, Contact does not agree that the conditions generally are uncertain, vague or reflect a lack of accountability / scrutiny in terms of effects management, as suggested by WCPS. The conditions are detailed and robust, setting clear standards to be met and requiring Contact to follow a range of processes that will collectively ensure that Contact's implementation of the Approvals will be subject to appropriate bounds and scrutiny. The conditions represent 'best practice' for major wind farm (or other infrastructure) approvals, and Contact has not sought to depart in any material way from the conditions that would likely be imposed under a standard RMA process.
8. Of particular relevance for local residents (including Mr Robinson), the conditions require an ongoing flow of information about construction activities, and provide for other mechanisms including a Community Liaison Group and complaints procedures whereby people can raise issues, and Contact will be required to respond appropriately. Contact is committed to following the processes set out in the conditions, and to engaging closely with local residents as the Project moves into the pre-implementation and construction phases.
9. Contact acknowledges the concerns raised by WCPS about the potential adverse effects of the Project. However, the condition amendments sought by WCPS providing for additional management requirements are, with the exception of the specific amendments Contact has indicated it would be comfortable with, not necessary or appropriate.

10. The effects management measures and conditions that implement those measures have been developed based on detailed independent expert advice, and through close and prolonged engagement with and scrutiny by Environment Southland, Southland District Council, Gore District Council, TAMI, DOC and others. Contact considers that the effects raised by WCPS in its condition comments are appropriately dealt with in the draft conditions.

Dated this 27th day of March 2026



Dave Randal / Thad Ryan
Counsel for Contact Energy Limited

Appendix 1: Contact's responses to comments on conditions

[provided as a separate document]