
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for the Twizel Solar Project
[FTAA-2604-1217]

12 June 2026

[1] Nova Energy Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 9 June 2026. The application relates to the establishment and operation of a 300-megawatt solar farm over 565 hectares of an 868-hectare site to the east of Twizel Township, Mackenzie District, within the Canterbury region.

[2] In addition to resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 the application seeks a wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h) of the Act.

[3] Pursuant to section 51 of the Act, the panel convener directs the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to obtain from the Director-General of the Department of Conservation (DoC) a report under clause 3 of schedule 7 in respect of the wildlife approval.

Advice Requested

[4] The panel convener also directs the EPA to obtain advice from the DoC, on the following:

- (a) Any information gaps in the application that, in the opinion of DoC, must be addressed in order for the panel to determine the application.
- (b) How the weighting of matters set out in the relevant schedules should be approached, having regard to applicable statutory provisions and relevant senior court decisions (s51(1)).

- (c) If the agency does not agree with, or wishes to amplify on, the expert and planning assessments lodged in support of the application, it must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d))
- (d) The agency may confirm and append advice previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project and does not need to provide an assessment if it concurs with the applicant's assessments.
- (e) The agency is to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

Timing

[5] Reports and advice must be provided to the EPA **within 10 working days after the panel invites comments on the application**, in accordance with section 51(4) of the Act.

[6] Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The letter "J" is large and loops around the "a", "n", and "e".

Jane Borthwick

Panel convener for the purposes of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024