
MINUTE 10 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Receipt of Late Comment and Request for Information
Green Steel [FTAA-2506-1074]
(9 January 2026)

Late comment from David & Wendy Saxton concerning electricity supply

[1] On 5 January 2026 the EPA received written communication from David & Wendy Saxton following the Applicant's response dated 19 December 2025 to the Panel's further information requests, and in particular the statement by the Applicant's director as to site selection included in that response.

[2] Mr & Mrs Saxton reside at and farm a property adjacent to the application site and were invited to comment on the application. They did so on 14 November 2025 recording their strong opposition to the application and raising a number of concerns. One of these was the lack of availability of the electricity infrastructure required to supply 56MW of power to operate the plant. In its response to comments received the Applicant did not address this point.

[3] Mr & Mrs Saxton's concerns were heightened by the director's statement that one of the criteria for selecting the site was that "the main transmission lines are on the right side of the motorway and close by".

[4] Mr & Mrs Saxton's recent statement says that the last possible place to establish a termination point would be as these lines cross SH1, and that this would require the use of their land for a transformer station and additional transmission lines. They say that there has been no assessment of the effects on them of this, nor of the legal mechanism by which it can be done.

[5] The application documents included at AEE Attachment 27, a letter dated 19 May 2025 from WEL Networks Ltd, the electricity distribution supplier for the

Waikato District. This stated that WEL's existing infrastructure (a 33kV substation at Hampton Downs Road) was insufficient to supply 56MW to the application site and that it was assessing options to enable such a supply. The main option (and the only one mentioned) was to acquire some or all of Transpower's 110kV network between the Bombay and Hamilton Grid Exit Points, but this option was subject to a number of contingencies and caveats, including the need for approval from land owners.

[6] WEL also provided comments on the application by letter dated 17 November 2025. In that letter WEL said, in relation to electricity supply, only that it and the Applicant were working together to establish an electricity supply for the site.

[7] The uncertainty of the availability of a sufficient supply of electricity to the project is a matter of considerable importance, especially if it is to rely on the agreement of Mr & Mrs Saxton who are clearly opposed to it. It was not clear in the application documents just what the electricity supply would involve and what effects it might have on the Saxtons' property.

[8] For these reasons the Panel has decided to accept the additional late comments received from Mr & Mrs Saxton, insofar as it relates to the issues concerning the supply of electricity to the site. The other points raised are not responding to anything that was not already known, and most have already been touched on in earlier comments.

Request for information

[9] The Panel consequently requests from the Applicant (and WEL if it wishes to do so) a full response to Mr & Mrs Saxtons' additional comments in relation to that issue, including in particular:

- (a) Whether the supply of 56MW of electricity to the site will or is likely

to require new or additional infrastructure on or over the Saxtons' property;

- (b) What consideration has been given to the effects on the Saxtons or any other property that might be affected by such infrastructure;
- (c) If no such consideration has yet been given, an assessment of these effects;
- (d) What legal rights are there for the infrastructure and power supply to be on and/or over the Saxtons' property without their agreement, or that of any other private owner;
- (e) What other realistic options are there for the supply of the required 56MW of electricity to the site, and how have these been assessed for their potential effects

[10] The responses are to be provided to the EPA within 5 working days. Noting that the RMA statutory shutdown period remains in effect until 10 January 2026, the responses are therefore due no later than **11.59pm on 19 January 2026**, and can be filed:

- (a) by email info@fastrack.govt.nz;
- (b) by post to Private Bag 63002, Wellington 6140 New Zealand; or
- (c) in person to Stewart Dawson's Corner, 366 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011.



Matthew Casey KC
Green Steel Expert Panel Chair