

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Minute 7 of the Expert Panel dated 23 January 2026
and Minute 7A dated 3 February 2026 on the application
for the Southland Wind Farm

APPLICATION NO. FTAA-2508-1095

**MEMORANDUM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
RESPONDING TO MINUTE OF THE EXPERT PANEL**

9 February 2026

Shona Bradley (On behalf of Matt Pemberton, Counsel) Senior Solicitor DOC Te Papa Atawhai	Loren Brown Fast Track Lead DOC Te Papa Atawhai PO Box 10420 Wellington 6140 Email: fast-track@doc.govt.nz
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1. This memorandum has been prepared on behalf of the Department of Conservation (DOC). It responds to Minute 7 and Minute 7A of the Panel Convener dated 23 January 2026 and 3 February 2026 respectively, in relation to the Southland Wind Farm.
2. Minute 7 invited DOC to comment on the relevance of recent amendments made to the:
 - a) Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025;
 - b) National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025 (NPS-REG); and
 - c) National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025 (NPS-FM).
3. DOC has reviewed the amendments to those listed planning instruments and considered these in the context of advice previously provided by the Department in its comments under Section 53 of the FTAA.
4. The Panel has requested that any comments focus on the relevance of the amendments in the planning instruments that weigh either in favour of, or against, the granting of the approvals sought.
5. DOC has undertaken a focused review and acknowledges that, in relation to renewable generation, there are more enabling provisions within these instruments, in particular, Policies A, B, C, E and F of the NPS-REG.
6. However, DOC also notes that alongside these more enabling policies, there is still the requirement for environmental effects of renewable generation to be addressed as per Policy F (particularly clauses (2), (4) and (5)) of the NPS-REG, Implementation Method 3.22 of the NPS-FM, and the associated Appendices 6 and 7.
7. Having considered these matters, DOC remains comfortable with its previous conclusions provided in section 5 of its section 53 comments, noting that Policies C1 and C2 of the previous NPS-REG (2011) are now

replaced by an equivalent Policy F in the NPS-REG as amended December 2025. The amendments do not affect DOC's conclusions.

Conclusion

8. DOC notes the amendments to the national planning instruments and that these may form part of the decision in favour of, or against, the granting of the approvals sought for the Southland Wind Farm project. DOC considers that its comments under Section 53 of the FTAA are still relevant to the panel's consideration and decision-making.



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