

27 February 2026

Hon Raynor Asher KC  
The Point Solar Farm Expert Panel Chair  
Fast Track Approvals  
Environmental Protection Authority  
Private Bag 63002  
WELLINGTON 6140  
[delivered to: [info@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:info@fasttrack.govt.nz)]

Tēnā koe Raynor,

**FTAA-2509-1100 – FAR NORTH SOLAR FARM – THE POINT SOLAR FARM- MINUTE 5 RESPONSE**

Aukaha provides this response on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Waihao (Waihao) and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki (Moeraki) collectively Kā Rūnaka, whose takiwā includes Te Manahuna. Kā Rūnaka exercise rakatirataka and kaitiakitaka over all the natural resources within their takiwā.

Kā Rūnaka thank you for the opportunity to comment on the further ecological survey information and associated draft management plan material submitted by Far North Solar Farm (FNSF) to the Expert Panel on 23 February 2026.

Kā Rūnaka understand that Wildland Consultants were contracted by FNSF to undertake quantitative vegetation and fauna surveys and to prepare draft ecological management plans informed by the further survey information. The purpose of this work was to identify where indigenous dryland and shrubland vegetation persist on the site and whether those areas may provide suitable habitat for lizards and invertebrates (including grasshoppers).

Kā Rūnaka acknowledge that FNSF and Wildland Consultants have been consulting with the Department of Conservation (DOC) regarding an overall ecological enhancement approach. This is understood to include key enhancement actions captured within several of the draft ecological management plans, such as the establishment of a Grasshopper Reserve and lizard habitat corridors, as well as associated consent conditions.

While it is understood that further detail regarding the overall ecological enhancement approach is still to be provided, Kā Rūnaka support this collaboration and are comfortable with DOC continuing to work with FNSF and Wildland Consultants to ensure that the proposed ecological responses and supporting consent conditions are robust and enduring.

Kā Rūnaka support an adaptive management approach and have made it clear to FNSF that mana whenua seek involvement in the drafting and implementation of the various management plans to ensure that a “Kāi Tahu lens” is applied across project management responses. Mana whenua wish to ensure that impacts on cultural values, associations, and connections with the site and the surrounding area of Te Manahuna are appropriately identified, monitored, and addressed throughout the life of the project from pre-construction through to decommissioning.

Further discussion regarding mana whenua involvement in the project, including through the establishment of a Kaitiaki Governance Group and a Cultural Monitoring Programme, are scheduled to take place on 4 March 2026 at Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu offices in Ōtautahi.

Please contact Aukaha's Kaiwhakamahere Matua (Senior Planner), Tim Vial, on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] if you require further clarification.

Kā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cory Neale'.

**Cory Neale**  
Chief Executive  
Aukaha