

Hon Mark Patterson

Minister for Rural Communities
Associate Minister of Agriculture
Associate Minister for Regional Development



23 March 2026

Ref: COR25-0091 /
MIN26-0168

Keely Palar
Fast-track Application Lead
Email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Keely

Re: Southland wind farm fast-track application

Thank you, and the expert panel, for the opportunity to comment following the release of the draft decision to approve the Southland Wind Farm Project (FTAA-2508-1095) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

In my role as Minister for Rural Communities, I continue to be generally supportive of the project and the direction signalled by the draft decision. The Southland Wind Farm project has the potential to deliver meaningful benefits at both a regional and national level, including strengthening New Zealand's renewable energy supply and supporting economic activity in rural Southland.

The project is expected to contribute to the delivery of clean, renewable electricity, support employment during construction, and play a role in the transition to a lower-emissions energy system. These outcomes align with the government's broader objectives for energy security, emissions reduction, and long-term economic resilience.

Overall, I consider that the draft decision reflects a balanced assessment of these considerations and appropriately recognises the wider public benefits the project is expected to deliver.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Patterson'.

Hon Mark Patterson
Minister for Rural Communities