

File ref: 26-BRF-021055 / FTAA-2605-1232

28 July 2026

Dion Cowley
FRV Services New Zealand Limited (the applicant)
email: s 9(2)(a)

c/- Tim Grace
SLR Consulting New Zealand Limited (the agent)
email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Dion

Section 28 – Notice of Decisions on the referral application for the Rangitikei Solar Farm Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

This notice of decisions is for a referral application received from FRV Services New Zealand Limited (the applicant) for the Rangitikei Solar Farm Project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

Project details

The project is to construct, operate and maintain a utility scale solar farm (including battery storage), and all ancillary activities, with a peak output of approximately 220 MWac (Megawatts Alternating Current), and connect and supply electricity to the National Grid on a project area of approximately 400 hectares.

The project area is located at 119 and 178 Colemans Road, 206 and 240 Tūtaenui Road and 65 Calico Line, near Marton in the Rangitikei District, Manawatū–Whanganui Region.

The project includes infrastructure and ancillary activities to connect and supply electricity to the National Grid that will comprise:

- a. solar arrays installed on a single-axis tracking system or fixed-tilt mounts, inverters and transformers, underground cabling
- b. a battery energy storage system (BESS)
- c. a new electricity transmission substation and associated connection to the Transpower overhead transmission lines running through the project site
- d. ancillary infrastructure such as access, internal roads, roading upgrades, buildings for storage, maintenance and offices, water tanks and security fencing and lighting

- e. landscape planting and ecological enhancement (screen planting, native riparian planting and pest control management) along watercourses and site boundaries.

The applicant seeks the following approvals via the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project:

- a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) as described in section 42(4)(a) of the Act.

Statutory framework for referral applications

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

The project can only be accepted if the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) is satisfied the criteria in section 22 are met, which includes being satisfied the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits and referring the project to the fast-track approvals process would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost effective way than under normal processes, and is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

Under section 21(3) of the Act, the Minister must decline a referral application if:

- a. the Minister is satisfied that the project does not meet the criteria in section 22
- b. the Minister is satisfied that the project involves an ineligible activity
- c. the Minister considers they do not have adequate information to inform the decision.

Additionally, the Minister has the discretion to decline a referral application for any other reason, even if the project meets the criteria outlined in section 22 of the Act.

Decision on referral application

The Minister has decided to accept the referral application under section 21(1)(c) and refer the whole project to the fast-track approvals process under section 26(2)(a). The Minister is satisfied that the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the Act, for the reasons detailed below.

Reasons for accepting referral application

The Minister is satisfied the project:

- a. is an infrastructure project that would have significant regional or national benefits; and
- b. referring the project to the fast-track approvals process:
 - i. would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and
 - ii. is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process.

Specifically, the Minister is satisfied the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the Act because:

- a. the project is an infrastructure project that would have significant regional benefits [section 22(1)(a)] because it:

- i. will deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure [section 22(2)(a)(ii)] by delivering new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure within the renewable energy sector
 - ii. will deliver significant economic benefits [section 22(2)(a)(iv)] by creating approximately 435 full-time equivalent (FTE) years of employment (approximately 218–290 FTE job years over the 18 to 24-month construction programme) and approximately \$69–million in GDP
 - iii. will support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions [section 22(2)(a)(vii)] by contributing to the renewable energy supply network at a utility scale and consequently reduce reliance on fossil fuels in order to generate electricity
 - iv. is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies [section 22(2)(a)(x)] and is identified as being of regional or national significance in the regional One Plan (2016).
- b. referring the project to the fast-track approvals process would facilitate its delivery [section 22(1)(b)(i)], including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes because it precludes public and limited notification, and appeals under the Act are only to the High court and limited to points of law.
 - c. referring the project is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process [section 22(1)(b)(ii)] because the project is neither novel in the New Zealand context nor beyond the scope of what a panel would typically assess under the RMA.

The Minister is satisfied there is no reason they must decline the project under section 21(3) of the Act. The Minister is also satisfied there is no reason to decline the project under section 21(4) of the Act.

Specified matters for accepted referral application

1. FRV Services New Zealand Limited, who lodged the referral application, as the person who is authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project under section 27(2) of the Act.
2. Under section 27(3)(b)(i) of the Act, a deadline of two years from the date of issue of this letter applies for lodging the substantive application.

Under section 28 of the Act, the Secretary for the Environment must also give written notice of decisions made by the Minister on an accepted referral application to the parties specified in Appendix 1 of this letter.

If you have any queries about this notice of decisions, email: referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Stephanie McNicholl.

If you have any queries about the substantive process, email: contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 225 537).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Frame

Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix 1: Section 28 – Notice of Minister’s decision on accepted referral application

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Section 28(1)(a)(i) – The applicant	FRV Services New Zealand Limited
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Section 28(1)(a)(ii) – Anyone invited to comment on the application

<i>Relevant local authorities</i>	Manawatū–Whanganui Regional Council Rangitikei District Council
<i>Relevant portfolio Ministers</i>	Minister for the Environment Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Minister for Māori Development Minister for Energy
<i>Relevant administering agencies</i>	N/A
<i>Māori groups under section 17(d)</i>	Ngā Wairiki–Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti Ngāti Parewahawaha Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust
<i>Any other persons under section 17(5)</i>	Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand Limited Chief Executive of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Minister of Climate Change Minister for Economic Growth Minister for Regional Development

Section 28(2) – Other parties for an accepted referral application

<i>The Panel Convener</i>	Including all the information received by the Minister as required by section 28(4).
<i>Any iwi authorities or Treaty settlement entities (other than those that must be notified as identified above) that the Minister considers have an interest in the matter</i>	No additional iwi authorities or Treaty settlement entities have been identified beyond those listed above.
<i>Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</i>	Including all the information received by the Minister as required by section 28(4).
<i>Relevant administering agencies</i>	N/A
