

Your Comment on the Foxton Solar Farm application

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email to substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Transpower New Zealand Limited		
First name	Portia		
Last name	King		
Postal address	Waikoukou 22 Boulcott Street PO Box 1021 Wellington 6011		
Home phone / Mobile phone		Work phone	
Email (<i>a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you</i>)			

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
☒	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	☐	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

1. Background

- 1.1 Transpower New Zealand Limited (**Transpower**) has been invited to comment on the Foxton Solar Farm application (the **Project**) under section 53 and 54 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.
- 1.2 Transpower is the State-Owned Enterprise that plans, builds, maintains, and operates New Zealand's high voltage transmission network - The National Grid. The National Grid comprises around 11,000 km of transmission lines and cables, and some 164 substations. It links generators to distribution companies and major industrial users from Kaikohe in the North Island to Tiwai Point in the South Island. Transpower's principal role is to ensure the reliable supply of electricity throughout the country and, therefore, has a significant interest in ensuring that development does not adversely affect the operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the existing transmission network.

2. The Project and Transpower's engagement to date

- 2.1 The Project proposes to construct and operate a solar farm across approximately 400 hectares and connect and supply electricity to the National Grid via a new Grid Injection Point (GIP) substation. Transpower would construct and operate the Transpower portion of the substation and maintain a long-term presence at the site.
- 2.2 The Bunnythorpe to Haywards A (**BPE-HAY-A**) and Bunnythorpe to Haywards B (**BPE-HAY-B**) 220 kV National Grid transmission lines traverse the Project site. The line is not designated, and Transpower relies on Policy 11 and 12 of the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (**NPS-EN**) to protect the lines.
- 2.3 The Applicant sought feedback from Transpower on the draft substantive application. Transpower provided review comments on 25 September 2025 – provided in 'Appendix D – Consultation record' of the Substantive Application.
- 2.4 Transpower's general position is neutral in relation to the merits of the Project. Transpower is satisfied that the Applicant has incorporated Transpower's feedback and proposed consent conditions into the substantive application documentation. Based on this engagement, Transpower is comfortable that suitable conditions have been developed to appropriately manage effects on the National Grid assets and operations. Transpower supports the inclusion of these conditions in any approval granted. Transpower also notes the importance of retaining these conditions, or materially equivalent provisions, should any alternative or amended conditions be considered through the Panel's process.