# *STATUTORY PLANNING POLICY ASSESSMENT*

## Mackenzie District Plan (PC23-27 and Operative Provisions)

| **Mackenzie District Plan (PC23-27)** | |
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| **Strategic Directions** | |
| **A Thriving Community** | **Assessment** |
| Objective ATC-O1 – The Mackenzie District is a desirable place to live, work, play and visit, where:<br>(1) There are a range of living options, businesses and recreation activities to meet community needs;<br>(2) Activities that are important to the community's social, economic and cultural well-being, including appropriate economic development opportunities are provided for; and<br>(3) The anticipated amenity values and character of different areas are maintained or enhanced. | *The proposal is considered to represent an appropriate economic development opportunity while maintaining the anticipated amenity values and character of the area.* |
| Objective ATC-O2 - The significant contribution of rural areas to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the District is recognised and provided for. | *The proposal is located within a rural area and will make a significant contribution to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the Mackenzie District.* |
| Objective ATC-O3 – The importance to the District and beyond of infrastructure, particularly nationally and regionally significant infrastructure, is recognised and provided for. | *The proposal provides for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.* |
| Objective ATC-O4 – The local, regional and national benefits of the District's renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission activities and assets are recognised and their development, operation, maintenance and upgrade are provided for and reverse sensitivity effects on those activities and assets are avoided | *The proposal provides for the development of a large-scale renewable electricity generation activity and asset with local, regional and national benefits.* |
| **Mana Whenua** | **Assessment** |
| Objective MW-O1 – The role of mana whenua is recognised and their historic and contemporary relationship with the District's land, water bodies, indigenous species and other sites and areas of significance are recognised and provided for. | *Nova have recognised the role and relationship of mana whenua through the engagement undertaken to date and will continue to work with mana whenua to ensure the matters in MW-O1 are recognised and provided for.* |
| Objective MW-O2 – Mana whenua are able to:<br>(1) Be actively involved in decision making that affects their values and interests;<br>(2) Exercise their kaitiakitaka responsibilities; and<br>(3) Carry out customary activities in accordance with tikanga. | *As per the above* |
| **Natural Environment** | **Assessment** |
| Objective NE-O1 – The values of the natural environment, including those that make the District unique, contribute to its character, identity and well-being, or have significant or outstanding intrinsic values, are recognised and provided for, and where appropriate protected and enhanced. This includes, but is not limited to, values associated with the following important natural resources:<br>(1) Mahika kai resources;<br>(2) Night sky darkness;<br>(3) Outstanding natural features and landscapes;<br>(4) Significant indigenous biodiversity; and<br>(5) Water bodies and their margins. | *The project has been developed with the important natural resources identified in NE-O1 at the front of mind. Nova have worked with experts and mana whenua to identify areas on the site with important values and has designed the project to avoid adverse effects on the areas. The proposal will not result in any significant adverse landscape effects or adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity that are more than minor. Lighting will be the minimum required.* |
| **REG - Renewable Electricity Generation** | Assessment |
| Objective REG-01 – The output from renewable electricity generation activities in the District for national, regional and local use is increased to support achievement of the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation. | *The proposal is entirely consistent with this objective.* |
| Objective REG-02 – The adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities are managed in a way that recognises and | *The proposal is entirely consistent with this objective.* |

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| provides for the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities | |
| Policy REG-P1 – Recognise and provide for the national, regional, and local benefits of renewable electricity generation activities and assets, including avoiding, reducing, or displacing greenhouse gas emissions. | *The proposal is entirely consistent with this policy.* |
| Policy REG-P6 – Provide for renewable electricity generation activities (not otherwise specified in REG-P3 and REG-P4) within areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding Natural Features, Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, riparian areas, or within area of Highly Productive Land, where:<br>1. there is a functional need or operational need for the activity to be in that location;<br>2. adverse effects on the values of the area are avoided as far as practicable, including through site, route or method selection, design measures and other management methods;<br>3. adverse effects on the values of the area that cannot be avoided are remedied or mitigated, where practicable;<br>4. other adverse effects (that do not affect the values of the area) are avoided, remedied or mitigated, as far as practicable;<br>5. regard is had to any proposed offsetting measures or environmental compensation, where there are significant residual adverse effects that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated; and<br>6. following application of 1. - 4. above, there are no significant adverse effects remaining. | *The proposal is located within an Outstanding Natural Landscape. The proposal has both a functional and operational need to be in the location based on the need to be located close to a National Grid connection and substation, within an area with strong solar irradiation and on land with flat contour which is not subject to any significant natural hazards. The proposal avoids adverse effects on the values of the area as far as practicable through site design and adherence to a suite of management plans. Other adverse effects will be avoided, remedied or mitigated, as far as practicable. The proposal will not result in any significant residual adverse effects and therefore proposed offsetting measures and/or environmental compensation is not required or proposed.* |
| **Light** | **Assessment** |
| Objective LIGHT-O1 – Outdoor lighting allows activities to occur beyond daylight hours and provides safety and security for activities, while:<br>(1) Protecting views of the night sky; and<br>(2) Managing light spill to maintain amenity values, health and safety and the safe operation of the transport network. | *See assessment below* |
| Policy LIGHT-P1: Manage the location, design and operation of outdoor lighting to ensure:<br>1. It does not distract or interfere with the safety of road users; and<br>2. It is compatible with the zone in which any lightspill is received. | *No lighting will be required within the solar farm for safety and security purposes. Any service work at night will be conducted with minimal localised lighting (for health and safety purposes) with appropriate diffusers / screens etc to minimise any effects. Inverters may have minimal control system indicator lighting / LED's that we can shielded.* |
| Policy LIGHT-P2: Require outdoor lighting and skylights to minimise, as far as practicable, the potential for upward light spill that would adversely affect the ability to view the night sky. | *As per the above assessment.* |
| **Mackenzie Operative District Plan** | |
| **Section 7 Rural** | **Assessment** |
| Objective 2 - The preservation of the natural character and functioning of the District's lakes, rivers, and wetlands and their margins, and the promotion of public access along these areas. | *The project has been designed to preserve the natural character and functioning of the rivers, wetlands and their margins adjoining the development area. Public access along these areas will be maintained.* |
| Objective 3A - Protection of outstanding landscape values, the natural character of the margins of lakes, rivers and wetlands and of those natural processes and elements which contribute to the District's overall character and amenity. | *The impacts of the project on landscape values and natural character have been expertly assessed and with mitigation the adverse effects will be more than minor but not high or significant. Given the nature of the project it is inevitable that some landscape values will be lost.* |
| Policy 3A3 - Avoid or mitigate the effects of subdivision, uses or development which have the potential to modify or detract from areas with a high degree of naturalness, visibility, aesthetic value, including important landscapes, landforms and other natural features. | *The proposal avoids and mitigates adverse effects through the design layout and the adherence to a suite of conditions and management plans.* |

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| Objective 3B – Activities in the Mackenzie Basin's outstanding natural landscape<br>(1) Subject to (2)(a), to protect and enhance the outstanding natural landscape of the Mackenzie Basin subzone in particular the following characteristics and/or values:<br>(a) The openness and vastness of the landscape;<br>(b) The tussock grasslands;<br>(c) The lack of houses and other structures;<br>(d) Residential development limited to small areas inclusters;<br>(e) The form of the mountains, hills and moraines, encircling and/or located in, the Mackenzie Basin;<br>(f) Undeveloped lakesides and State Highway 8 roadside;<br>(2) To maintain and develop structures and works for the Waitaki Power Scheme:<br>(a) Within the existing footprints of the Tekapo-Pukaki and Ōhau Canal Corridor, the Tekapo, Pukaki and Ohau Rivers, along the existing transmission lines, and in the Crown-owned land containing Lakes Tekapo, Pukaki, Ruataniwha and Ohau and subject only (in respect of landscape values) to the objectives, policies and methods of implementation within Chapter 15 (Utilities) except for management of exotic tree species in respect of which all objective (1) and all implementing policies and methods in this section apply;<br>(b) Elsewhere within the Mackenzie Basin subzone so as to achieve objective (1) above.<br>(3) Subject to objective 3B(1) above and to rural objectives1, 2 and 4:<br>(a) To enable pastoral farming;<br>(b) To manage pastoral intensification and/or agricultural conversion throughout the Mackenzie Basin and to identify areas where they may be enabled (such as Farm Base Areas);<br>(c) To enable rural residential subdivision, cluster housing and farm buildings within Farm Base Areas around existing homesteads (where they are outside hazard areas) | *Many of the characteristics listed in the objective will be unaffected by the project. There will be some loss of the openness and vastness of the landscape but this will only be from certain viewing points and is in the context of the wider outstanding natural landscape of the Mackenzie Basin.* |
| Policy 3B1 – Recognition of the Mackenzie Basin's Distinctive Characteristics<br>(1) To recognise that within the Mackenzie Basin's outstanding natural landscape there are:<br>(a) Many areas where development beyond pastoral activities is either generally inappropriate or should be avoided;<br>(b) Some areas with greater capacity to absorb different or more intensive use and development, including areas of low or medium visual vulnerability and identified Farm Base Areas;<br>(c) Areas, places and features of particular significance to Ngāi Tahu.<br>(2) To identify, describe and map as overlays, specific areas within the Mackenzie Basin that assist in the protection and enhancement of the characteristics and/or values of the outstanding natural landscape contained in Objective 3B(1) being:<br>(a) Lakeside Protection Areas, shown on the planning maps;<br>(b) Scenic Viewing Areas, in Appendix J and shown on the planning maps;<br>(c) Scenic Grassland Areas, in Appendix J and shown on the planning maps;<br>(d) Sites of Natural Significance, in Appendix I and shown on the planning maps, and<br>(e) Land above 900m in altitude, shown on the planning maps.<br>(3) As part of an assessment of the suitability of an area for a change in use for development:<br>(a) To identify whether the proposed site has high, medium or low ability to absorb development according to Appendix V (Areas of Landscape Management);<br>(b) To require an assessment of landscape character sensitivity (incorporating natural factors including geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, vegetation cover, cultural patterns, | *The primary relevance of this policy to the project is the requirement for a landscape assessment to evaluate the effects of the project on the Mackenzie Basin's distinctive characteristics. This assessment has been undertaken and forms a key part of the consent application.* |

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| landscape condition and aesthetic factors such as naturalness and remoteness). | |
| Objective 6 - A level of rural amenity which is consistent with the range of activities anticipated in rural areas, but which does not create unacceptably unpleasant living or working conditions for the District's residents or visitors, nor a significant deterioration of the quality of the general rural and physical environment. | *Renewable electricity generation activities are anticipated in the rural areas of the District and the assessment of environmental effects for the project will not create unacceptably unpleasant living or working conditions for the District's residents or visitors, nor a significant deterioration of the quality of the general rural and physical environment.* |
| Rural Policy 6D - To encourage and/or control activities to be undertaken in a way which avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the amenities and physical environment of rural areas. | *The assessment of environmental effects for the project outlines the measures that will be undertaken to ensure the project avoids and mitigates adverse effects on the amenities and physical environment of the area.* |
| Objective 7 - Minimal loss of life, damage to assets and infrastructure, or disruption to the community of the District, from natural hazards. | *Nova have designed the solar plant to safely operate in, and be resilient to, any hydrology effects at the margins of the hydro inundation hazard zone on the site, noting that effects (if any) are expected to be minor due to the flat topography slowing water flow to create ponding effects.* |
| **Section 16 Utilities** | **Assessment** |
| Objective 1 – Utilities whose functioning and operation avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on their surrounding environment.<br>Policy 1 – To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects created by the operation of utilities through the application of performance standards to separate incompatible activities, maintain, visual amenities, safety, and the quality of the environment. | *The project complies with all performance standards related to utilities.* |
| Objective 2 – Enabling The Establishment, Use And Maintenance Of Utilities<br>Policy 3 – To take into account the strategic needs of a utility when considering possible alternative locations for establishment.<br>Policy 4 – To make specific provision for certain activities within the District, which are land extensive and/or which have specific locational needs, to ensure that the presence and function of the utility is recognised.<br>Policy 6 – To give due regard to the importance of a utility when assessing the establishment of a proposed utility or the suitability of a neighbouring activity. | *These objectives and policies are enabling of the project and the suitability of the location to meet the strategic needs of the project have been outlined in detail in the application.* |

## National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation

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| **A. Recognising the benefits of renewable electricity generation activities** | |
| POLICY A | Decision-makers shall recognise and provide for the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities, including the national, regional and local benefits relevant to renewable electricity generation activities. These benefits include, but are not limited to:<br>a) maintaining or increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions;<br>b) maintaining or increasing security of electricity supply at local, regional and national levels by diversifying the type and/or location of electricity generation;<br>c) using renewable natural resources rather than finite resources;<br>d) the reversibility of the adverse effects on the environment of some renewable electricity generation technologies;<br>e) avoiding reliance on imported fuels for the purposes of generating electricity. |
| **B. Acknowledging the practical implications of achieving New Zealand's target for electricity generation from renewable resources** | |
| POLICY B | Decision-makers shall have particular regard to the following matters:<br>a) maintenance of the generation output of existing renewable electricity generation activities can require protection of the assets, operational capacity and continued availability of the renewable energy resource; and<br>b) even minor reductions in the generation output of existing renewable electricity generation activities can cumulatively have significant adverse effects on national, regional and local renewable electricity generation output; and<br>c) meeting or exceeding the New Zealand Government's national target for the generation of electricity from renewable resources will require the significant development of renewable electricity generation activities. |
| **C. Acknowledging the practical constraints associated with the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities** | |
| POLICY C1 | Decision-makers shall have particular regard to the following matters:<br>a) the need to locate the renewable electricity generation activity where the renewable energy resource is available;<br>b) logistical or technical practicalities associated with developing, upgrading, operating or maintaining the renewable electricity generation activity;<br>c) the location of existing structures and infrastructure including, but not limited to, roads, navigation and telecommunication structures and facilities, the distribution network and the National Grid in relation to the renewable electricity generation activity, and the need to connect renewable electricity generation activity to the National Grid;<br>d) designing measures which allow operational requirements to complement and provide for mitigation opportunities; and<br>e) adaptive management measures. |
| POLICY C2 | When considering any residual environmental effects of renewable electricity generation activities that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, decision-makers shall have regard to offsetting measures or environmental compensation including measures or compensation which benefit the local environment and community affected. |
| **E. Incorporating provisions for renewable electricity generation activities into regional policy statements and regional and district plans** | |
| *E1 Solar, biomass, tidal, wave and ocean current resources* | |
| POLICY E1 | Regional policy statements and regional and district plans shall include objectives, policies and methods (including rules within plans) to provide for the development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities using solar, biomass, tidal, wave and ocean current energy resources to the extent applicable to the region or district. |

*Assessment:* The NPSREG provides strong policy support for the Project as a matter of national significance. The Project directly supports the overall objective to increase the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources. The Project benefits directly align with the benefits recognised in Policy A. The Project support Policy B(c)

in contributing to the significant development of renewable electricity generation activities. Considerations under Policy C1 are relevant to the Project, noting the locational aspects of the Project site being well-suited to solar electricity generation to include existing National Grid lines and close proximity to an existing substation. For reasons set out in the effects assessment, it is considered there are no residual adverse effects requiring offset mitigation or environmental compensation, although it is noted Nova are committed to restoration of waterbodies and wetlands to achieve net positive ecological benefits (Policy C2). Policy E1 is notable for the requirement for regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans to include provisions to provide for renewable electricity generation activities to include solar.
Overall, the Project is entirely consistent with the NPSREG and directly supports the overall objective to increase renewable energy generation as a matter of national significance.

# Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

| Objective / Policy | Assessment |
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| Chapter 5 – Land Use and Infrastructure | |
| Objective 5.2.1 - Development is located and designed so that it functions in a way that:<br>(1) achieves consolidated, well designed and sustainable growth in and around existing urban areas as the primary focus for accommodating the region's growth; and<br>(2) Enables people and communities, including future generations, to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and health and safety; and which:<br>(a) Maintains and where appropriate, enhances the overall quality of the natural environment of the Canterbury region, including its coastal<br>environment, outstanding natural features and landscapes, and natural values;<br>(b) Provides sufficient housing choice to meet the region's housing needs;<br>(c) Encourage sustainable economic by enabling business activities in appropriate locations;<br>(d) Minimises energy use and /or improves energy efficiency;<br>(e) Enables rural activities that support the rural environment including primary production;<br>(f) Is compatible with, and will result in the continued safe, efficient and effective use of regionally significant infrastructure;<br>(g) Avoids adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources including regionally significant infrastructure, and where avoidance is impractical, remedies or mitigates those effects on those resources and infrastructure;<br>(h) Facilities the establishment of papakainga and marae; and<br>(i) Avoids conflict between incompatible activities. | |
| Objective 5.2.2 - Integration of land-use and regionally significant infrastructure (Wider Region)<br>In relation to the integration of land use and regionally significant infrastructure:<br>1. To recognise the benefits of enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and health and safety and to provide for infrastructure that is regionally significant to the extent that it promotes sustainable management in accordance with the RMA.<br>2. To achieve patterns and sequencing of land-use with regionally significant infrastructure in the wider region so that:<br>(a) development does not result in adverse effects on the operation, use and development of regionally significant infrastructure.<br>(b) adverse effects resulting from the development or operation of regionally significant infrastructure are avoided, remedied or mitigated as fully as practicable. (c) there is increased sustainability, efficiency and liveability. | |
| Policy 5.3.2 Development conditions (Wider Region) To enable development including regionally significant infrastructure which:<br>1. ensure that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated, including where these would compromise or foreclose:<br>(a) existing or consented regionally significant infrastructure;<br>(b) options for accommodating the consolidated growth and development of existing urban areas;<br>(c) the productivity of the region's soil resources, without regard to the need to make appropriate use of soil which is valued for existing or foreseeable future primary production, or through further fragmentation of rural land;<br>(d) the protection of sources of water for community supplies; (e) significant natural and physical resources;<br>2. avoid or mitigate:<br>(a) natural and other hazards, or land uses that would likely result in increases in the frequency and/or severity of hazards;<br>(b) reverse sensitivity effects and conflicts between incompatible activities, including identified mineral extraction areas; and<br>3. integrate with:<br>(a) the efficient and effective provision, maintenance or upgrade of infrastructure; and<br>(b) transport networks, connections and modes so as to provide for the sustainable and efficient movement of people, goods and services, and a logical, permeable and safe transport system. | *The proposal will enable regionally significant infrastructure. The proposal will not have any adverse impacts on existing or consented regionally significant infrastructure, any urban areas or community water supplies. The proposal will appropriately avoid or mitigate adverse effects and will integrate with the existing substation and transmission infrastructure and the SH8 transport network.* |
| Policy 5.3.9 Regionally significant infrastructure (Wider Region) In relation to regionally significant infrastructure (including transport hubs):<br>1. avoid development which constrains the ability of this infrastructure to be developed and used without time or other operational constraints that may arise from adverse effects relating to reverse sensitivity or safety;<br>2. provide for the continuation of existing infrastructure, including its maintenance and operation, without prejudice to any future decision that may be required for the ongoing operation or expansion of that infrastructure; and<br>3. provide for the expansion of existing infrastructure and development of new infrastructure, while: | *The proposal is strategically located next to an existing substation and grid connection. Rather than constraining infrastructure it compliments it and provides for its operation and continuation. The proposal is also strategically located in an area and on land that is suitable for large scale solar. The proposal will appropriately avoid or mitigate adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values.* |

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| (a) recognising the logistical, technical or operational constraints of this infrastructure and any need to locate activities where a natural or physical resource base exists;<br>(b) avoiding any adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values and where this is not practicable, remedying or mitigating them, and appropriately controlling other adverse effects on the environment; and<br>(c) when determining any proposal within a sensitive environment (including any environment the subject of section 6 of the RMA), requiring that alternative sites, routes, methods and design of all components and associated structures are considered so that the proposal satisfies sections 5(2)(a) – (c) as fully as is practicable. | |
| Chapter 7 Fresh Water | |
| Objective 7.2.1 The region's fresh water resources are sustainably managed to enable people and communities to provide for their economic and social well-being through abstracting and/or using water for irrigation, hydro-electricity generation and other economic activities, and for recreational and amenity values, and any economic and social activities associated with those values, providing:<br>1. the life-supporting capacity ecosystem processes, and indigenous species and their associated freshwater ecosystems and mauri of the fresh water is safe-guarded;<br>2. the natural character values of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins are preserved and these areas are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development and where appropriate restored or enhanced; and<br>3. any actual or reasonably foreseeable requirements for community and stockwater supplies and customary uses, are provided for. | |
| Objective 7.2.3 The overall quality of freshwater in the region is maintained or improved, and the life supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species and their associated fresh water ecosystems are safeguarded. | |
| Policy 7.3.5 To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of land uses on the flow of water in surface water bodies or the recharge of groundwater by:<br>1. controlling the diversion of rainfall run-off over land, and changes in land uses, site coverage or land drainage patterns that will, either singularly or cumulatively, adversely affect the quantity or rate of water flowing into surface water bodies or the rate of groundwater recharge; and<br>2. managing the planting or spread of exotic vegetation species in catchments where, either singularly or cumulatively, those species are or are likely to have significant adverse effects on flows in surface water bodies. | *The proposal will not adversely affect the flow of water in surface waterbodies or the recharge of groundwater due to the minimal changes it will have on existing rainfall run off and drainage patterns. The planting of exotic vegetation species is not proposed, and the proposal will not result in the spread of exotic vegetation.* |
| Policy 7.3.7 To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of changes in land uses on the quality of fresh water (surface or ground) by:<br>1.identifying catchments where water quality may be adversely affected, either singularly or cumulatively, by increases in the application of nutrients to land or other changes in land use; and<br>2. controlling changes in land uses to ensure water quality standards are maintained or where water quality is already below the minimum standard for the water body, it is improved to the minimum standard within an appropriate timeframe. | *The proposal will not result in an adverse effect on water quality. Construction earthworks will be managed in accordance with best practice sediment and erosion control as specified in the project ESCP.* |
| Chapter 9 Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity | |
| Objective 9.2.3 Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are identified and their values and ecosystem functions protected | |
| Policy 9.3.2 – To recognise the following national priorities for protection:<br>1. Indigenous vegetation in land environments where less than 20% of the original Indigenous vegetation cover remains.<br>2. Areas of indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands.<br>3. Areas of indigenous vegetation located in "originally rare" terrestrial ecosystem types not covered under (1) and (2) above.<br>4. Habitats of threatened and at risk indigenous species. | *Areas on the site of indigenous value have been identified by Wildlands and will be avoided/protected with any residual effects managed by adherence to a suite of management plans.* |
| Chapter 12 – Landscape | |
| Objective 12.2.1 – Outstanding natural features and landscapes within the Canterbury region are identified and their values are specifically recognised and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. | |
| Policy 12.3.2 – To ensure management methods in relation to subdivision, use or development, seek to achieve protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. | *The proposed mitigation planting plans and ecological management plans are management methods seeking to achieve protection of the landscape* |
| Chapter 15 - Soils | |
| Objective Prevention of new significant induced soil erosion, and the reduction of significant existing induced erosion. | |
| Policy 15.3.2 To avoid significant new induced soil erosion resulting from the use of land and as far as practicable remedy or mitigate significant induced soil erosion where it has occurred. Particular focus is to be given to the desirability of maintaining vegetative cover on nonarable land. | *Earthworks on the site will be minimised and managed in accordance with the project ESCP with a focus being maintaining vegetative cover as much as possible. Significant new induced soil erosion will be avoided.* |

| Section 16 – Energy | |
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| Objective 16.2.2 – Reliable and resilient generation and supply of energy for the region, and the wider contributions beyond Canterbury, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy, which:<br>1. provides for the appropriate use of the region's renewable resources to generate energy;<br>2. reduces dependency on fossil fuels;<br>3. improves the efficient end-use of energy;<br>4. minimises transmission losses;<br>5. is diverse in the location, type and scale of renewable energy development;<br>6. recognises the locational constraints in the development of renewable electricity generation activities; and<br>a. avoids any adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values or where this is not practicable, remedies or mitigates; and<br>b. appropriately controls other adverse effects on the environment. | |
| Policy 16.3.3 – To recognise and provide for the local, regional and national benefits when considering proposed or existing renewable energy generation facilities, having particular regard to the following:<br>1. Maintaining or increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions;<br>2. Maintaining or increasing the security of supply at local and regional levels, and also wider contribute beyond Canterbury by diversifying the type and/or location of electricity generation;<br>3. using renewable natural resources rather than finite resources;<br>4. the reversibility of the adverse effects on the environment of some renewable electricity generation facilities;<br>5. avoiding reliance on imported fuels for the purposes of generating electricity; and<br>6. assisting in meeting international climate obligations. | *The proposal is entirely consistent with this policy.* |
| Policy 16.3.5 — To recognise and provide for efficient, reliable and resilient electricity generation within Canterbury by:<br>1. avoiding subdivision, use and development which limits the generation capacity from existing or consented electricity generation infrastructure to be used, upgraded or maintained;<br>2. enabling the upgrade of existing, or development of new electricity generation infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on encouraging the operation, maintenance and upgrade of renewable electricity generation activities and associated infrastructure:<br>(a) having particular regard to the locational, functional, operational or technical constraints that result in renewable electricity generation activities being located or designed in the manner proposed;<br>(b) provided that, as a result of site, design and method selection: (i) the adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources or cultural values are avoided, or where this is not practicable remedied, mitigated or offset; and (ii) other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately controlled.<br>3. providing for activities associated with the investigation, identification and assessment of potential sites and energy sources for renewable electricity generation;<br>4. maintaining the generation output and enabling the maximum electricity supply benefit to be obtained from the existing electricity generation facilities within Canterbury, where this can be achieved without resulting in additional significant adverse effects on the environment which are not fully offset or compensated. | *The proposal will not limit the generation capacity from existing or consented electricity generation infrastructure. The proposal provides for the development of a new renewable electricity generation activity and associated infrastructure. The locational, functional, operational and technical constraints and requirements of the proposal have been outlined which support the proposal being located on the application site. It has been demonstrated in the application that adverse effects on the environment will be appropriately avoided or mitigated*. |

# Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

| Objective / Policy | Assessment |
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| Objective 3.1<br>Land and water are managed as integrated natural resources to recognise and enable Ngāi Tahu culture, traditions, customary uses and relationships with land and water. | |
| Objective 3.3<br>Nationally and regionally significant infrastructure is enabled and is resilient and positively contributes to economic, cultural and social wellbeing through its efficient and effective operation, on-going maintenance, repair, development and upgrading. | |
| Objective 3.5<br>Land uses continue to develop and change in response to socio-economic and community demand. | |
| Objective 3.6<br>Water is recognised as essential to all life and is respected for its intrinsic values. | |
| Objective 3.8<br>Water quality and quantity in freshwater bodies and their catchments is managed to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems and ecosystem processes. | |
| Objective 3.13<br>Water quality and quantity in freshwater bodies and their catchments is managed to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems and ecosystem processes. | |
| Objective 3.23<br>Soils are healthy and productive, and human-induced erosion and contamination are minimised. | |
| Objective 3.24<br>All activities operate at good environmental practice or better to optimise efficient resource use and protect the region's fresh water resources from quality and quantity degradation | |
| Policy 4.13 | |
| For other discharges of contaminants into or onto land where it may enter water or to surface water bodies or groundwater (excluding those passive discharges to which Policy 4.26 applies), the effects of any discharge are minimised by the use of measures that:<br>(a) first, avoid the production of the contaminant;<br>(b) secondly, reuse, recovers or recycles the contaminant;<br>(c) thirdly, minimise the volume or amount of the discharge; or<br>(d) finally, wherever practical utilise land-based treatment, a wetland constructed to treat contaminants or a designed treatment system prior to discharge; and<br>(e) in the case of surface water, results in a discharge that after reasonable mixing meets the receiving water standards in Schedule 5 or does not result in any further degradation in water quality in any receiving surface waterbody that does not meet the water quality standards in Schedule 5 or any applicable water conservation order. | *The effects of the construction and operational discharges to land of the proposal will be minimised by adherence to a project ESCP during construction and by the nature of the project which involves tracking panels which ensure that stormwater runoff is not concentrated at any location avoiding erosion and sedimentation effects.* |
| Policy 4.14 | |
| Ensure discharge of contaminants into or onto land where it may enter groundwater will not:<br>i) Exceed the natural capacity of the soil to treat or remove the contaminant<br>ii) Exceed the available water storage capacity of the soil<br>iii) Where i) and ii) are not practical, adhere to the guidance set out in part c of the policy. | *The management measures proposed will ensure the proposed dicharges will not exceed the natural capacity of the soil to treat or remove the contaminant or exceed the available water storage capacity of the soil.* |

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| Policy 4.14B | |
| Ensure that when considering applications for discharges which may adversely affect statutory acknowledgement areas, nohoanga sites, surface waterbodies, silent file areas, culturally significant sites, Heritage New Zealand sites, any listed archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes, regard is taken of Ngāi Tahu values. In particular, those expressed within the LWRP, any iwi management plan, and any relevant district plan. | *Nova is working closely with mana whenua to ensure the proposal has regard to Ngāi Tahu values. A Manawhenua Report has been commissioned, and Nova are working with mana whenua to address concerns raised and enable opportunities identified.* |
| Policy 4.17 | |
| Stormwater run-off volumes and peak flows are managed so that they do not cause or exacerbate the risk of inundation, erosion or damage to property or infrastructure downstream or risks to human safety. | *The SMP outlines mitigating factor and measures proposed in the project design that will ensure that stormwater run-off volumes and peak flows are managed so not to cause or exacerbate the risk of inundation, erosion or damage to property or infrastructure downstream or risks to human safety.* |
| Policy 4.18 | |
| The loss or discharge of sediment or sediment-laden water and other contaminants to surface water from earthworks, including roading, works in the bed of a river or lake, land development or construction, is avoided, and if this is not achievable, the best practicable option is used to minimise the loss or discharge to water. | *The effects of the construction related discharges to land of the proposal will be avoided and minimised by adherence to a project ESCP.* |
| Policy 4.19 | |
| The discharge of contaminants to groundwater from earthworks, excavation, waste collection or disposal sites and contaminated land is avoided or minimised by ensuring that:<br>(a) activities are sited, designed and managed to avoid the contamination of groundwater;<br>(b) existing or closed landfills and contaminated land are managed and monitored where appropriate to minimise any contamination of groundwater; and<br>(c) there is sufficient thickness of undisturbed sediment in the confining layer over the Coastal Confined Aquifer System to prevent the entry of contaminants into the aquifer or an upward hydraulic gradient is present which would prevent aquifer contamination. | *The only discharge of contaminants related to the project is the temporary discharge of sediment during the construction phase of the project. The effects of the construction related discharges to land of the proposal will be avoided and minimised by adherence to a project ESCP.* |
| Policy 4.22 | |
| Sedimentation of water bodies as a result of land clearance, earthworks and cultivation is avoided or minimised by the adoption of control methods and technologies, such as maintaining continuous vegetation cover adjacent to water bodies, or capturing surface run-off to remove sediment and other contaminants or by methods such as direct drilling crops and cultivation that follows the contours of a paddock. | *The effects of the construction related discharges to land of the proposal will be avoided and minimised by adherence to a project ESCP. Vegetation disturbance will be minimised and natural contour will be largely maintained.* |