

Haldon Solar Project – Evidence of SLR Consulting New Zealand Ltd Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment

LODESTONE ENERGY LIMITED
HALDON SOLAR PROJECT
Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment

Evidence of Michael Wakelin, Stephen Rate, Ben Ludgate
Regarding Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment of the Haldon Solar Project Effects

INTRODUCTION

Michael Wakelin’s role in relation to the Haldon Solar Project has been to provide expert invertebrate advice. Michael completed the desktop assessment, planned and completed the December 2025 field survey of the site, processed specimens collected from the site, and collated the survey findings and existing habitat descriptions in the Haldon Solar Project Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment report which is provided with the response to comments.

Stephen Rate’s role in relation to the Haldon Solar Project has been to provide expert ecology advice. Stephen prepared the Haldon Solar Project Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment report by collating relevant survey information from the site. Stephen contributed to the assessment of potential effects and potential options for management of effects in the Haldon Solar Project Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment report which is provided with the response to comments.

Ben Ludgate’s role in relation to the Haldon Solar Project has been to provide expert ecology advice. Ben reviewed the invertebrate survey summaries describing the existing invertebrates and habitats at the site and contributed to the assessment of potential effects and potential options for management of effects in the Haldon Solar Project Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment report which is provided with the response to comments.

This evidence has been prepared to accompany the application by Lodestone Energy Limited for approvals required for the Haldon Solar Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“FTAA”). It has been prepared on the understanding that the process for determining applications under the FTAA does not require a hearing to be held.

While this application is not being considered by the Environment Court, we confirm that we have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023 and that we have complied with it when preparing this evidence.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Michael Wakelin
Diploma of Applied Science, Victoria University of Wellington (1999)
NZ Certificate in Science, Central Institute of Technology (1990)

Michael has over 30 years of experience working with New Zealand wildlife, specifically focusing on terrestrial invertebrate ecology and taxonomy. Michael's valuable expertise has contributed to projects across New Zealand, including in Otago and Southland where he has completed a range of projects over several years investigating Data Deficient terrestrial invertebrates.

Stephen Rate

PhD., Ecology, University of Otago (2005)

Graduate Diploma, University of Otago (1999)

BSc. (Honours), Biochemistry, University of Canterbury (1987)

Stephen has undertaken terrestrial ecology surveys throughout New Zealand since 2005.

Stephen's extensive experience includes completing terrestrial assessments and monitoring for a range of energy providers throughout Otago and Southland, where he ensures robust scientific methods are used and pragmatic recommendations are provided to clients.

Ben Ludgate

MSc., Zoology, University of Otago (2001)

BSc., Zoology, University of Otago (1998)

Ben is a Principal Ecologist and the Team Manager for Dunedin Ecology and Marine Science at SLR. Ben has over 23 years of experience as a consultant ecologist. Ben has managed ecological surveys and assessments across New Zealand for a range of clients including for renewable energy generation, receiving water monitoring in relation to discharges, and land development.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT

We confirm that in our opinion the Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment contains an accurate and appropriate description of the environment, the actual and potential effects of the Haldon Solar Project, and potential actions to manage those effects, within our areas of expertise.

Dated this 10 day of February 2025.