

# Memorandum on Completeness and Scope

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| <b>File</b>        | FTAA-2607-1268                                                                                      |
| <b>Application</b> | Hinuera Solar Farm                                                                                  |
| <b>To</b>          | Manager LOA/ Team Leader LOA                                                                        |
| <b>From</b>        | <div></div>                                                                                         |
| <b>Date</b>        | 7 October 2026                                                                                      |
| <b>Subject</b>     | Assessment whether the application complies with section 46(2) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 |

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## Purpose

1. The purpose of this memo is to assist you in making your decision on whether the Hinuera Solar Farm application, lodged by Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited (the Applicant), received by the Fast-track Team on 10 September 2026 complies with the requirements of section 46(2) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**the Act**).

## Decision-maker

2. You have delegated authority to make the decision under section 46 of the Act under the instrument of delegation dated 31 March 2026.

## Conflict of interest

3. I confirm that I do not have any conflict of interest in this matter that would prevent me making this assessment.

## The application

4. For projects listed in Schedule 2 of the Act and referred projects, authorised persons may lodge a substantive application for approvals available under the Act.
5. The Application is a listed project.

6. The Application was lodged on 10 September 2026. The EPA must, in consultation with the relevant administering agencies and relevant consent authorities, decide whether this substantive application complies with section 46 of the Act within 15 working days of the lodgement of the application (but may be longer where the EPA has requested further information from the applicant under section 46(2B)). This application was subject to a further information request therefore the date by which the EPA must make a decision under 46 is 7 October 2026.
7. As set out in more detail below, the EPA must decide whether the application is complete and either:
  - Notify the Panel Convener they can set up an expert consenting panel to make a decision on the application (if complete and within scope); or
  - return it to the person who lodged it (if incomplete and/or not within scope).

## Project and Scope

8. The project is described in Schedule 2 of the Act as:

*Construct, operate, and maintain a solar farm and battery energy storage facility with an installed capacity of approximately 100 MW DC, and connect and supply electricity to the national grid.*

9. The approximate geographical location is identified in Schedule 2 of the Act as:

*152 hectares at Hinuera, Waikato.*

10. The application is described in Section 5.1.2 of the application report as:

*HENZ is proposing to construct and operate a solar farm with a peak output to the grid of approximately 70 MW AC/100 MW DC at the Site. The solar farm (fenced area) will occupy approximately 134 hectares of the 154 ha Site. The Project will export generated electricity via the Powerco substation at the corner of Lake Road and State Highway 27, Hinuera (South Waikato District).*

*The following are the key elements of the Hinuera Solar Farm:*

- *The installation of a maximum 170,000 photovoltaic (PV) modules (panels);*
- *Ancillary infrastructure including:*
  - *Connections and cabling;*
  - *BESS;*
  - *Central Inverter or String Transformer Stations;*
  - *Switching Station/Switchroom;*
  - *Operations, maintenance and storage buildings;*
- *Connection to the Hinuera Substation located at the corner of State Highway 27 and Lake Road;*
- *Earthworks to create level platforms for the PV arrays, ancillary infrastructure and internal access roads;*
- *Stormwater management including culverts;*

- *Temporary works and construction facilities including laydown areas, temporary access, worker amenities, and utility services;*
- *Security fencing, lighting and CCTV;*
- *Internal access roads;*
- *Fire access and firefighting infrastructure;*
- *Storage of hazardous substances;*
- *Meteorological Stations;*
- *Ecological restoration surrounding wetlands, the Mangawhero Stream, and the unnamed Stream within the Site extent;*
- *Provision for ongoing farming of the land under and around the solar panels; and*
- *Ongoing operation of the solar farm.*

11. The application relates solely to the listed project because there are no substantial differences between the proposal detailed in the substantive application and the project scope described in Schedule 2 of the Act.

## **Fast-track consenting application process**

### **Legislative context**

12. The EPA must decide, in consultation with relevant administering agencies and consent authorities, whether the substantive application complies with section 46(2) of the Act. A substantive application complies with section 46(2) of the Act, if the application:
- complies with sections 42, 43 and 44;
  - relates solely to a listed project or a referred project;
  - the EPA considers that, on the face of the application, the project does not appear to involve an ineligible activity; and
  - any fee, charge, or levy payable under the Fast-track Approvals (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2025 (the Regulations) in respect of the application is paid.
13. The EPA may request further information from the applicant under section 46(2A) for the purposes of determining whether the application is complete and within scope.

### **Section 42 Requirements**

14. Section 42 of the Act states that an authorised person may lodge a substantive application for the project, 1 substantive applications for each stage of a project if the Minister has determined that the project may proceed in stages (either under s 21(1)(a) or s 37A). Section 42(4) lists the approvals that may be sought under the Act.

15. This application has been lodged by Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited. This person is an authorised person under the Act because they are the person identified as the authorised person in the listed project.
16. The approvals being sought are
  - an approval described in section 42(4)(a), (c) or (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance or designation);
    - A resource consent, change to or cancellation of a resource consent: **checklist A**;
17. For each of the approvals sought, the applicant is eligible to apply for any corresponding approval under a specified Act.

### **Section 43 Requirements**

18. Section 43 of the Act sets out the requirements for a substantive application. The substantive application was lodged in the form and manner approved by the EPA. Assessment of section 43 requirements is included at Appendix 1.

### **Section 44 Requirements**

19. Section 44 of the Act requires that the information provided by the applicant under section 43 must be specified in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required. Assessment of section 44 sufficiency is included at Appendix 1.
20. In assessing the sufficiency of information provided by the applicant, we rely on the information provided to us through consultation with each relevant administering agency and consent authority, as summarised in Appendix 2.
21. Following the Section 46(2A) request for further information, the Applicant's 5 October 2026 response addressed MPDC's statutory gaps by supplying assessments against Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA, unaddressed District Plan provisions, and omitted national policy instruments. Consequently, the application now contains sufficient detail under Section 44 to satisfy Section 46 completeness requirements.
22. As set out in more detail in Appendix 2, the agencies consulted have advised that the information required by section 44 is provided in **sufficient detail** to satisfy the purpose for which it is required.

### **Ineligibility**

23. The EPA needs to decide whether it considers that, on the face of the application, the project does not appear to involve an ineligible activity, as defined in section 5 of the Act. As the EPA has to consider this on the face of the application, the EPA is only able to consider information contained in the application materials.
24. The list of ineligible projects includes activities:

- on land returned under a Treaty settlement, on identified Māori Land, on Māori customary land, on land set apart as Māori reservation, or in a customary marine title or protected customary rights area without written permission from the rights holder;
- on Māori customary land, or land set apart as Māori reservation under Part 17 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993;
- in a customary marine or protected customary rights area without written agreement from the rights holder/group;
- within an aquaculture settlement area without the required authorisation;
- activities that would be prevented under section 165J, 165M, 165Q, 165ZC, or 165ZDB of the RMA (which deal with occupation of space in the common marine and coastal area); or
- that require permissions on national reserves (or reserves vest in another person) held under the Reserves Act 1977 ; or
- on land listed under clauses 1 to 11 or 14 of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (and clauses 12 and 13 for mining activities).
- That are prohibited under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012, or section 15B or 15C the Resource Management Act 1991.
- That relate to decommissioning under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012
- That are undertaken for the purposes of an offshore renewable energy project.

25. I consider that, on the face of the application, the project does not appear to involve an ineligible activity.

### **Notification by applicant**

26. Pre-lodgement requirements for a listed project require the applicant to notify in writing the persons and groups referred to in section 29(1)(aa). The persons and groups notified have 20 working days to respond from the date of the notice. The applicant must not lodge their substantive application until each 20 working day period has elapsed.
27. I have checked and reviewed the dates of notification sent to the persons or groups in section 29(1)(aa) and confirmed that the application has lodged their application only after each 20 working day period has elapsed.

### **Fees and levies**

28. The EPA has received all fees, charges and levies payable by the applicant under the Regulations for the substantive application as follows:
- Application fee in the sum of \$250,000 plus GST;
  - Levy in the sum of \$140,000 plus GST;

## **Consultation**

29. I have consulted with and considered consultation responses from the following relevant administering agencies and relevant consent authorities:
- Waikato Regional Council for:
    - i. an approval described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent)
  - Matamata Piako District Council for:
    - i. an approval described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent)
30. A summary of the consultation is included as Appendix 2.

## **Requests for further information**

31. I requested further information from the applicant under section 46(2A) on 29 September 2026 in relation to:
32. Incomplete assessments against Section 6 and 7 of the RMA.
33. National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS)
34. Incomplete National Policy Statements Assessment
35. Incomplete assessment against the Operative Matamata-Piako District Plan
36. Insufficient detail in the assessment of effects on the environment
- The applicant responded with the information on 5 October 2026 within the 20- working timeframe afforded by section 46(2B). A full copy of the request and response can be found in Appendix 3.

## **Assessment of compliance for each section of each application form**

37. I have assessed the application materials against the relevant checklists in the prescribed application form. Each assessment is contained within the appropriate approval checklist. These are included in Appendix 1 for ease of reference.
38. My view is that the application does comply with section 46 and the EPA may now notify the applicant of its decision.
39. The EPA must now decide whether the substantive application has a competing application under section 47A(1) (under delegation from the Minister for Infrastructure under section 47C) within 10 working days from the date of the completeness decision.
40. Once the EPA has made the decision under section 47A(1), the EPA must notify the panel convener that an expert consenting panel can be set up to commence consideration and decision of the application.

## Appendix 1: Assessment of section 44 sufficiency

My assessment of the application materials is set out in the relevant checklists below:

### CHECKLIST A – Resource consent, change to or cancellation of a resource consent

| Clause, Schedule 5 | Information required for an approval described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent) and/or section 42(4)(b) (change or cancellation of resource consent), Clauses 5-8 of Schedule 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Application Reference                                                                                                                                                                                | EPA                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 5(1)(a)            | A description of the proposed activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>A description of the proposal is included in Section 5.0 of the substantive application report, p. 41-64.</b>                                                                                     | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br><br>Section 5.0, pages 41-64 of the substantive application report, as referenced.                                                            |
| 5(1)(b)            | A description and map of the site at which the activity is to occur, including whether the site is within or adjacent to—<br><br>(i) a statutory area (as defined in the relevant Treaty settlement Act); or<br><br>(ii) ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (as defined in section 11 of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019); or<br><br>(iii) a protected customary rights area under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 | <b>Site description and map: refer Section 4.1 of the substantive application report, p. 22-32.</b><br><b>In relation to (i), refer Section 4.4 of the substantive application report, p. 37-41.</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br><br>Section 4.1, pages 22-32 of the substantive application report, as referenced<br><br>i) Section 4.4 as referenced.<br>ii) N/A<br>iii) N/A |

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|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>In relation to (ii), N/A because the Site is not within the rohe of ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (iii), N/A as the site is not a protected customary rights area.</b></p>                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5(1)(c) | <p>Confirmation that the consent application complies with section 46(2)(a), (b), and (d); being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• section 42; and</li> <li>• sections 43 and 44; and</li> <li>• relates solely to a listed project or a referred project; and</li> <li>• any fee, charge, or levy payable under regulations in respect of the application is paid.</li> </ul> | <p><b>The application complies with section 46(2)(a), (b), and (d):</b></p> <p><b>In relation to section 42, refer Section 3.2.1 of the substantive application report, p. 17-18</b></p> <p><b>In relation to section 43, refer Section</b></p> | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>The authorised person (Harmony Energy #6 Limited) has lodged the substantive application.</p> <p>Information is in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required, does not involve ineligible activities, and relates solely to a listed project.</p> |

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|                  |                                                                                                   | <b>3.2.2 of the substantive application report, p. 18-22</b><br><b>In relation to section 44, refer Section 3.2.2.7 of the substantive application report, p. 21</b><br><b>The application relates solely to a listed project.</b><br><b>Any fee, charge, or levy payable in respect of the application has been/will be paid.</b> | The application fee and levy have been paid in full.                                    |
| 5(1)(d) and 5(6) | The full name and address of—<br>(i) each owner of the site and of land adjacent to the site; and | <b>For the names and addresses of owners / occupiers of the site, refer Section</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 1.2, pages 2-3 of the substantive application report, |

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|         | <p>(ii) each occupier of the site and of land adjacent to the site whom the applicant is able to identify after reasonable inquiry;</p> <p>If the applicant is not able to supply the name and address of the owner and each occupier of the site and of land adjacent to the site because the land is Māori land in multiple ownership, the applicant must include a statement to that effect (clause 5(6)).</p> | <p><b>1.2 of the substantive application report, p. 2-3.</b></p> <p><b>For the names and addresses of owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site, refer to Appendix B Engagement and Consultation Summary - Section 6.3 (p. 15) and Attachment 2.</b></p> | <p>Appendix B, and Attachment 2, as referenced.</p>                                                                                                                          |
| 5(1)(e) | <p>A description of any other activities that are part of the proposal to which the consent application relates</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>For a description of all proposed activities, refer Section 5.0 of the substantive application report, p. 41 -64.</b></p> <p><b>For a description of</b></p>                                                                                               | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>Section 5, pages 41-64, section 3.2.2.4, pages 20-21 and section 6.5, pages 68-70 of the substantive application report, as referenced.</p> |

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|         |                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>additional activities and/or approvals required to complete the project, refer Section 3.2.2.4 of the substantive application report, p. 20-21.</b></p> <p><b>Permitted Activities that form part of the proposal are set out in Section 6.5 of the substantive application report, p. 68-70.</b></p> <p><b>There are no other activities that are part of the proposal to which the application relates.</b></p> |     |
| 5(1)(f) | A description of any other resource consents, notices of requirement for designations, or alterations to designations required for the project to which the consent application relates | <b>N/A as there are no resource consents, notices of requirement for designations, or</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | N/A |

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|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>alterations to designations required for the project.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5(1)(g)                                     | An assessment of the activity against sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Resource Management Act 1991                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Section 8.3 of the substantive application report, p. 121-123.</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br><br>Section 8.3, pages 121-123 of the substantive application report, as referenced, and in the further information response, question 1.           |
| 5(1)(h)<br>(and also clauses 5(2) and 5(3)) | An assessment of the activity against any relevant provisions in any of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a national environmental standard:</li> <li>• other regulations made under the Resource Management Act 1991:</li> <li>• a national policy statement:</li> <li>• a New Zealand coastal policy statement:</li> <li>• a regional policy statement or proposed regional policy statement:</li> <li>• a plan or proposed plan:</li> <li>• a planning document recognised by a relevant iwi authority and lodged with a local authority.</li> </ul> | <b>In relation to the relevant national environmental standards, refer Sections 8.2.1 &amp; 8.2.2 of the substantive application report, p. 104-109.</b><br><b>In relation to other regulations, refer Section 8.2.3 of the substantive</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br><br>Section 8.2, pages 104-118 of the substantive application report, as referenced, and in the further information response, questions 2, 3 and 4. |

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|  | <p>This assessment must include an assessment of the activity against the requirements set out in clause 5(3) of Schedule 5 being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any relevant objectives, policies or rules in the documents listed; and</li> <li>• any requirement, condition, or permission in any rules in any of those documents; and</li> <li>• any other requirements in any of those documents.</li> </ul> | <p><b>application report, p. 110.</b><br/> <b>In relation to national policy statements, refer Sections 8.2.4, 8.2.5 &amp; 8.2.6 of the substantive application report, p. 110-113.</b><br/> <b>The New Zealand coastal policy statement is not relevant to this application. The site is not within a coastal environment.</b><br/> <b>In relation to the regional policy statement, refer Section 8.2.7 of the substantive</b></p> |  |
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|  |  | <p><b>application report, p. 113-115.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to the relevant regional and district plan rules, requirements, conditions or permissions, refer Sections 8.2.8 &amp; 8.2.9 of the substantive application report, p. 115-118 and Appendix T (p. 1-17 (Regional) and p. 32-43 (District)).</b></p> <p><b>In relation to iwi management plans and planning documents, refer Section 8.2.10 of the substantive application report,</b></p> |  |
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|         |                                                                                                                | <p><b>p. 118-121.</b><br/> <b>In relation to relevant objectives, policies in the above documents, refer Appendix FF, specifically:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>National Policy Statements: p. 1-11.</b></li> <li>- <b>Regional Policy Statement: p. 12-24.</b></li> <li>- <b>Regional Plan: p. 25-50.</b></li> <li>- <b>District Plan: p. 51-63.</b></li> <li>- <b>Iwi Planning Documents: Pages 64-75.</b></li> </ul> |                        |
| 5(1)(i) | Information about any Treaty settlements that apply in the area covered by the consent application, including— | <b>For information on treaty settlements,</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Yes, addressed.</b> |

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|         | <p>(i) identification of the relevant provisions in those Treaty settlements; and</p> <p>(ii) a summary of any redress provided by those settlements that affects natural and physical resources relevant to the project or project area</p>                                                           | <b>including (i) and (ii), refer Section 4.4 of the substantive application report. p. 37-41.</b>                                                                                                                     | Section 4.4, pages 37-41 of the substantive application report, as referenced. |
| 5(1)(j) | A list of any relevant customary marine title groups, protected customary rights groups, ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (where an application is within, adjacent to or directly affecting ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou), or applicants under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011; | <b>N/A – there are no customary marine title groups, protected customary rights groups, or applicants under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. The site is not within the rohe of Ngāti Porou.</b> | N/A                                                                            |
| 5(1)(k) | Any conditions that the applicant proposes for the resource consent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Appendix V (all pages)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Appendix V, as referenced.                           |
| 5(1)(l) | if a notice under section 30(3)(b) or (5) has been received,—                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>The notice received from WRC under section 30(3)(b)</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Appendix C, as referenced.                           |

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|         | <p>(i) a copy of that notice showing that it was received within the time frame specified in section 30(6)(b); and</p> <p>(ii) if a notice has been received under section 30(5), any more up-to-date information that the applicant is aware of about the existing resource consent referred to in the notice.</p> | <b>dated 13 July 2026 is in Appendix C (all pages).</b>              | <p>Waikato Regional Council notes in their consultation that:</p> <p><i>"I advise that the written notice under section 30(3)(b)/30(5), dated 13 July 2026, prepared by Waikato Regional Council is no longer fully accurate and our stance on whether a consent is required for the stormwater aspect of the proposal has changed. The applicant has subsequently satisfied WRC's only concern detailed in its letter dated 13 July 2026, relating to stormwater, and this matter has now been resolved."</i></p> |
| 5(4)(a) | An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that includes the information required by clause 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Section 7.0 of this substantive application report. p. 70-99.</b> | See below.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5(4)(b) | An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that covers the matters specified in clause 7.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Section 7.0 of this substantive</b>                               | See below.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>application report.<br/>p. 70-99.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6 | <p>(1) The assessment of an activity's effects on the environment must include the following information:</p> <p>(a) an assessment of the actual or potential effects on the environment:</p> <p>(b) if the activity includes the use of hazardous installations, an assessment of any risks to the environment that are likely to arise from such use:</p> <p>(c) if the activity includes the discharge of any contaminant, a description of—</p> <p>(i) the nature of the discharge and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and</p> <p>(ii) any possible alternative methods of discharge, including discharge into any other receiving environment:</p> <p>(d) a description of the mitigation measures (including safeguards and contingency plans where relevant) to be undertaken to help prevent</p> | <p><b>The assessment of effects (refer Section 7.0 of the substantive application report, pages) includes the following information:</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (a), refer Section 7.0 of the substantive application report as a whole. p. 70-99.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (b), refer Section 7.10 of the substantive application report. p. 91-93.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (c)(i), the activity includes</b></p> | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>Section 7, pages 70-101 of the substantive application report, as referenced.</p> <p>a) Section 7, pages 70-101, as referenced.</p> <p>b) Section 7.10, pages 91-93, as referenced.</p> <p>c) Sections 5.3.1, 5.4.3, 7.3.4, 7.3.5, 7.6.1, as referenced.</p> <p>d) Section 7 and Appendix V, as referenced.</p> <p>e) Section 7.16, pages 99-101 and Appendix B, as referenced.</p> <p>f) Section 6.2, page 12) and Attachment 7 of Appendix B, as referenced.</p> <p>g) Appendix V, as referenced.</p> |

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|  | <p>or reduce the actual or potential effect of the activity:</p> <p>(e) identification of persons who may be affected by the activity and any response to the views of any persons consulted, including the views of iwi or hapū that have been consulted in relation to the proposal:</p> <p>(f) if iwi or hapū elect not to respond when consulted on the proposal, any reasons that they have specified for that decision:</p> <p>(g) if the scale and significance of the activity's effects are such that monitoring is required, a description of how the effects will be monitored and by whom, if the activity is approved:</p> <p>(h) an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right.</p> | <p><b>the discharge of cleanfill and sediment. Refer to the following sections of the substantive application report for the nature of discharges:</b></p> <p>- 5.3.1 (earthworks), p. 52-55.</p> <p>- 5.4.3 (cable and trenching), p.59-60.</p> <p>- 7.3.4 (earthworks effects), p. 76.</p> <p>- 7.3.5 (dewatering effects). p. 76. and Refer to Section 7.6.1 , (p. 84) of the substantive application report for the sensitivity of the receiving</p> | <p>h) N/A</p> |
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|  |  | <p>environment.</p> <p>In relation to (c)(ii), refer Sections 5.3.1 (p. 52-55) &amp; 5.4.3 (p. 59-60) of the substantive application report.</p> <p>In relation to (d), mitigation methods (including safeguards and contingency plans) have been built into the design of the Project and the construction methodology. Where there is a specific effect requiring mitigation, the mitigation methods have been discussed within Section 7.0 of</p> |  |
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|  |  | <p>the substantive application report (p.70- 101) and incorporated into Appendix V (conditions) (all pages)</p> <p>Specifically, within the substantive application report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods to mitigate construction effects – refer Section 7.3 (p. 72-78) and Conditions C4, D2-D10, D14-D15, D26-28, F1-F26, G1-G13, H1-H12, I1-I6 in Appendix V.</li> <li>• Methods to mitigate landscape effects – refer</li> </ul> |  |
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|  |  | <p><b>Section 7.4 (p. 78-82) and Conditions D20-D21, D29-D32 and E10-E14 in Appendix V.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Methods to mitigate reflected light effects – refer Section 7.5 (p. 83) and Condition C6 in Appendix V.</b></li> <li>• <b>Methods to mitigate ecological effects – refer Section 7.6 (p.84-88) and Conditions B13, C8, D11-D12, D25, E10-E18, F27-F30, H3, I7 in Appendix V and all conditions relating to construction effects listed above.</b></li> </ul> |  |
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|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Methods to mitigate cultural effects – refer Section 7.7 (p.88-90), consultation with mana whenua in Appendix B (page), and Conditions A7-A8, C2-C3, C5, E1 and E11-E13 in Appendix V.</b></li> <li>• <b>Methods to mitigate heritage and archaeological effects – refer Section 7.8 (p. 90-91) and Conditions A7-A8 and C2 in Appendix V.</b></li> <li>• <b>Methods to mitigate contaminated land</b></li> </ul> |  |
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|  |  | <p><b>effects – refer Section 7.9 (p. 91) and Conditions D23-D24 and F2 in Appendix V.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• Methods to mitigate hazardous substance/fire risk effects – refer Section 7.10 (p.91-93) and Conditions B12, D22 and E8-E9 in Appendix V.</b></li> <li><b>• Methods to mitigate natural hazard effects – refer Section 7.11 (p. 94-96) and Conditions C7, F14, H7 and I7 in Appendix V.</b></li> <li><b>• Methods to mitigate operational effects – refer</b></li> </ul> |  |
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|  |  | <p><b>Sections 7.12 and 7.13 (p.96-97) and Conditions B12, D13 and E1-E7 in Appendix V.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Methods to mitigate effects of decommissioning/re-powering – refer Section 7.15 (p. 98-99) and Conditions E20-E23.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In relation to (e), refer Section 7.16 of the substantive application report (p. 99-101) &amp; Appendix B Engagement and Consultation Summary (section 6, p. 10-17).</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (f),</b></p> |  |
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|  |  | <p>refer to section 6.2 (p. 12) and Attachment 7 of Appendix B Engagement and Consultation Summary.</p> <p>In relation to (g), the scale and significance of effects is not considered to require monitoring, with the exception of the specific requirements set out in management plan conditions. Refer Draft Conditions Appendix V (p. 11-13, 16-20, 23, 26-31).</p> <p>The implementation of the management</p> |  |
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|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>plans (including monitoring of the required effects / matters) will be the responsibility of the consent holder.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (h) – N/A. There are no protected customary rights.</b></p>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 7 | <p>The assessment of an activity's effects on the environment must cover the following matters:</p> <p>(a) any effect on the people in the neighbourhood and, if relevant, the wider community, including any social, economic, or cultural effects:</p> <p>(b) any physical effect on the locality, including landscape and visual effects:</p> <p>(c) any effect on ecosystems, including effects on plants or animals and physical disturbance of habitats in the vicinity:</p> <p>(d) any effect on natural and physical resources that have aesthetic, recreational, scientific, historical,</p> | <p><b>The assessment of effects (refer Section 7.0 of the substantive application report, pages) covers the following matters:</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (a), refer Sections 7.2, 7.3, 7.5, 7.7, 7.8, 7.12, 7.13, 7.15, 7.16 of the substantive</b></p> | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>Section 7, pages 70-101 of the substantive application report, as referenced.</p> <p>a) Sections 7.2, 7.3, 7.5, 7.7, 7.8, 7.12, 7.13, 7.15, 7.16. as referenced.</p> <p>b) Sections 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.15, as referenced.</p> <p>c) Sections 7.3.4, 7.3.5 and 7.6, as referenced, and Appendix H.</p> |

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|  | <p>spiritual, or cultural value, or other special value, for present or future generations:</p> <p>(e) any discharge of contaminants into the environment and options for the treatment and disposal of contaminants:</p> <p>(f) any unreasonable emission of noise:</p> <p>(g) any risk to the neighbourhood, the wider community, or the environment through natural hazards or hazardous installations.</p> | <p><b>application report, p. 71-78, 83, 88-91, 96-101.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (b), refer Sections 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.15 of the substantive application report, p. 72-84, 98-99.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (c), refer Sections 7.3.4, 7.3.5 and 7.6 of the substantive application report, p. 76-78, 84-88.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (d), refer Sections 7.8, 7.14 of the substantive application report, p. 90-91, 97-98.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (e), refer Sections 7.3,</b></p> | <p>d) Section 7.8, 7.14, as referenced.</p> <p>e) Sections 7.3, 7.9 and 7.15, as referenced.</p> <p>f) Sections 7.3.2 and 7.12, as referenced and Appendix X.</p> <p>g) Sections 7.10 and 7.11, as referenced.</p> |
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|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>7.9, 7.15 of the substantive application report, p. 72-78, 91, 98-99.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (f), refer Sections 7.3.2, 7.12 of the substantive application report, p. 73, 96-97</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (g), refer Sections 7.10, 7.11 of the substantive application report, p. 91-96.</b></p> |                                                                                                                                    |
| 5(5)(a) | <p>If a permitted activity is part of the proposal to which the consent application relates, a description that demonstrates that the activity complies with the requirements, conditions, and permissions for the permitted activity (so that a resource consent is not</p> | <p><b>For associated permitted activities and their descriptions, refer Section 6.5 (p. 68-70) of the substantive application report &amp;</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>Section 6.5, pages 68-70 of the substantive application report and Appendix T, as referenced.</p> |

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|         | required for that activity under section 87A(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Appendix T (p. 1-17 (Regional) and p. 32-43 (District)).</b>                                                                                                                                                        |     |
| 5(5)(b) | If the activity is to occur in an area that is within the scope of a planning document prepared by a customary marine title group under section 85 of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 or the environmental covenant prepared by ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou under section 19 of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019, an assessment of the activity against any resource management matters set out in that document | <b>N/A – the activity is not proposed within an area that is within the scope of a planning document prepared by a customary marine title group, or the environmental covenant prepared by ngā hapu o Ngāti Porou.</b> | N/A |
| 5(5)(c) | If the activity is to occur in an area that is taiāpure-local fishery, a mātaimai reserve, or an area that is subject to bylaws made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996, an assessment of the effects of the activity on the use or management of the area.                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>N/A - the activity will not occur in a taiāpure-local fishery, mātaimai reserve or area subject to bylaws</b>                                                                                                       | N/A |

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|  |  | <b>under the Fisheries Act 1996.</b> |  |
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#### CHECKLIST J – Listed project information requirements

| <b>Section, Fast-track Approvals Act</b> | <b>Information required for a substantive application under section 43(2) and section 13(4)</b>                                                                                  | <b>Application Reference</b>                                                                                   | <b>EPA</b>                                                                                                       |
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| 13(4)(a)                                 | a description of the project and the activities it involves                                                                                                                      | <b>Section 5.0 of the substantive application report, p. 41-64.</b>                                            | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 5, pages 41-64 of the substantive application report, as referenced.           |
| 13(4)(c)                                 | information to demonstrate that the project does not involve any ineligible activities (other than activities that may be the subject of a determination under section 23 or 24) | <b>The Project does not involve ineligible activities. Refer Section 3.2.2.1 (p. 18-19) of the substantive</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 3.2.2.1, pages 18 and 19 of the substantive application report, as referenced. |

|             |                                                                                                                                                        | <b>application report<br/>(p)</b>                                                                      |                                                                                                                |
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| 13(4)(d)    | a description or map of the whole project area that identifies its boundaries in sufficient detail to enable consideration of the referral application | <b>Section 4.1 of the substantive application report, p. 22-23.</b>                                    | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 4.1, page 30, Figure 1 of the substantive application report, as referenced. |
| 13(4)(e)    | the anticipated commencement and completion dates for construction activities (where relevant)                                                         | <b>Section 5.5 of the substantive application report, p. 60- 62.</b>                                   | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 5.5, page 60 of the substantive application report, as referenced.           |
| 13(4)(f)(i) | a statement of whether the project is planned to proceed in stages and, if so an outline of the nature and timing of the stages                        | <b>The Project will not be staged. Refer Section 5.5.1 of the substantive application report p. 60</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 5.5.1, page 60 of the substantive application report, as referenced.         |
| 13(4)(h)    | a description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment and the significance of those adverse effects             | <b>Section 7.0 of the substantive application report, p. 70- 100.</b>                                  | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 7, pages 70-100 of the substantive application report, as referenced.        |

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| 13(4)(i) | a statement of any activities involved in the project that are prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>The Project does not involve any activity that is prohibited under the RMA, refer to Section 3.2.1 of the substantive application report, p. 17-18.</b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br><br>Section 3.2.1, page 18 of the substantive application report, as referenced.       |
| 13(4)(j) | a list of the persons and groups the applicant considers are likely to be affected by the project, including—<br><br>(i) relevant local authorities:<br><br>(ii) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements:<br><br>(iii) other relevant iwi authorities:<br><br>(iv) relevant Treaty settlement entities:<br><br>(v) relevant protected customary rights groups and customary marine title groups:<br><br>(vi) ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou, if the project area is within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou: | <b>Parties likely to be affected are discussed in Section 7.16 of the substantive application report, p. 99-101. In relation to (i), consultation with local authorities is outlined in Section 3.2.2.3 (p.19) of the substantive application report and in Appendix B (section 6.1, p. 10-12).</b> | <b>Yes, addressed</b><br><br>Section 7.16, pages 99-100 of the substantive report and Appendix B, as referenced. |

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|  | <p>(vii) relevant applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011:</p> <p>(viii) persons with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 1981:</p> | <p><b>In relation to (ii) and (iii), consultation with iwi is outlined in Section 3.2.2.3 (p. 19) of the substantive application report, and in Appendix B (section 6.2, page 12-15).</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (iv), refer Section 4.4 (p.) of the substantive application report and Appendix B (section 5.3, p. 9-10).</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (v), there are no protected customary rights groups or customary marine title groups.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (vi), the site is not within or adjacent to the rohe of Ngāti Porou.</b></p> |  |
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|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>In relation to (vii),<br/>N/A - there are no relevant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (viii),<br/>N/A - there is no land to be acquired under the Public Works Act.</b></p>                                                           |                                                                                                                                                            |
| 13(4)(k) | <p>a summary of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the consultation undertaken for the purposes of section 29 and any other consultation undertaken on the project with the persons and groups referred to in paragraph (j); and</li> <li>(ii) how the consultation has informed the project:</li> </ul> | <p><b>In relation to (i), refer Section 3.1.1 (p. 17), 3.2.2.3 (p.19) of the substantive application report and Appendix B (section 6, p. 10-20).</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (ii), refer Section 3.2.2.3 (p. 19) of the substantive application report and Appendix B (section 6, p. 10-20).</b></p> | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>Section 3.1.1, page 17, section 3.2.2.3, page 19 of the substantive application report and Appendix B, as referenced.</p> |

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| 13(4)(ka) | a summary of how any responses provided to the notification under section 29(1)(aa) have informed the project                                 | <b>Refer Section 3.2.2.3 (9. 19) of the substantive application report and Appendix B (section 6, p. 10-20).</b>                            | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br><br>Section 3.2.2.3, page 19 of the substantive application report and Appendix B, as referenced. |
| 13(4)(l)  | a list of any Treaty settlements that apply to the project area, and a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements | <b>Section 4.4 of the substantive application report, p. 36.</b>                                                                            | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br><br>Section 4.4, page 36 of the substantive application report, as referenced.                    |
| 13(4)(m)  | a description of any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the project                                  | <b>N/A – No processes have occurred, or are required under the Public Works Act 1981</b>                                                    | N/A                                                                                                                         |
| 13(4)(n)  | a statement of any relevant principles or provisions in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019                                  | <b>N/A – The site is not within or adjacent to the rohe of Ngāti Porou, and the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 is not</b> | N/A                                                                                                                         |

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | relevant to the Application.                                                                                                                     |     |
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| 13(4)(o) | information identifying the parcels of Māori land, marae, and identified wāhi tapu within the project area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>N/A - The Application site does not include Māori land, marae, or identified wāhi tapu.</b>                                                   | N/A |
| 13(4)(p) | a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 23 and, if so, an assessment of the effects of the activity on the relevant land and on the rights and interests of Māori in that land                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>N/A – The land is not Māori land, and the Applicant does not require a determination under section 23.</b>                                    | N/A |
| 13(4)(q) | a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 24(2) and, if so, a description of— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the scale and adverse effects of the existing electricity infrastructure; and</li> <li>(ii) how, if at all, that scale or those adverse effects are anticipated or known to change as a result of the maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of the infrastructure</li> </ul> | <b>N/A – the land is not Schedule 4 land or located in national reserve. The Applicant does not require a determination under section 24(2).</b> | N/A |

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                         |     |
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| 13(4)(r) | <p>a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 24(4) and, if so,—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a description of every alternative site considered by the applicant (or, if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, any of those persons) for the construction and operation of the new electricity lines (the activity); and</li> <li>(ii) for each alternative site considered,— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) a statement of the anticipated and known financial cost of undertaking the activity; and</li> <li>(B) a description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of undertaking the activity; and</li> <li>(C) a description of the anticipated and known financial cost and practicality of available measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for the anticipated and known adverse effects of the activity; and</li> <li>(D) a description of any issues (including financial cost) that would make it impractical to undertake the activity on the site; and</li> <li>(E) an assessment of whether it would be reasonable and practical to undertake the activity on the site, taking into account the matters referred to in</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>N/A – the land is not Schedule 4 land or located in national reserve. The Applicant does not require a determination under section 24(4).</b></p> | N/A |
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|          | subparagraphs (A) to (D) and any other relevant matters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                              |
| 13(4)(s) | a description of the applicant's legal interest (if any), or if the application is lodged by more than 1 person, the legal interest of any of those persons) (if any), in the land on which the project will occur, including a statement of how that affects the applicant's ability to undertake the work                                   | <b>For a description of the Applicant's legal interest, and the Applicant's ability to complete the works, refer Section 3.2.2.4 (p. 20-21) of the substantive application report.</b>                                        | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 3.2.2.4, pages 20-21 of the substantive application report, as referenced. |
| 13(4)(t) | an outline of the types of consents, certificates, designations, concessions, and other legal authorisations (other than contractual authorisations or the proposed approvals) that the applicant considers are needed to authorise the project, including any that the applicant considers may be needed by someone other than the applicant | <b>For all consents required to authorise the project, refer Section 6.0 (p. 64-68) of the substantive application report and Appendix T (pages 1-17 (Regional) and 32-43 (District)).<br/>For other legal authorisations</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 6.0, pages 64-68 of the substantive application report, as referenced.     |

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>needed to complete the Project, refer Section 3.2.2.4 (page) of the substantive application report.</b>                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 13(4)(u) | <p>whether any activities that are involved in the project, or are substantially the same as those involved in the project, have been the subject of an application or a decision under a specified Act and,—</p> <p>(i) if an application has been made, details of the application:</p> <p>(ii) if a decision has been made, the outcome of the decision and the reasons for it:</p> | <b>N/A – no activities in the project have been the subject of an application or a decision under a specified Act.</b>                                                                             | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 13(4)(v) | a description of whether and how the project would be affected by climate change and natural hazards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>For a description of how the project is affected by climate change, refer 7.11.3 (p. 96) of the substantive application report. For a description of how the project is affected by natural</b> | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 7.11.3, page 96 of the substantive application report, as referenced.</li> <li>• Section 4.1.6, pages 30-31, sections 7.11, pages 94-96, of the substantive</li> </ul> |

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|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>hazards, refer Sections 4.1.6 (p. 30-31), 7.11.1 and 7.11.2 (p. 94-96) of the substantive application report.</b>                                 | application report, as referenced.                                                                                                                                                         |
| 13(4)(w) | if the application is lodged by more than 1 person, a statement of the proposed approval to be held by each of those persons                                                                                               | <b>N/A – The Application is being lodged only by Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited (HENZ).</b>                                                            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 13(4)(x) | a summary of compliance or enforcement actions (if any), and the outcome of those actions, taken against the applicant (or if the application is lodged by more than 1 person, any of those persons) under a specified Act | <b>HENZ has not had any compliance or enforcement actions taken against it. Refer Section 3.2.2.5 (p. 21) of the substantive application report.</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 3.2.2.5, page 21 of the substantive application report, as referenced: <i>“HENZ has not had any compliance or enforcement actions taken against it.”</i> |
| 13(4)(y) | Please provide the information specified below for the relevant approval(s) sought. This is the information specified in the relevant schedule.                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| 13(4)(y)(i),<br>clause 2 of<br>Schedule 5 | <b>Resource consent or designation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) an assessment of the project against—</li> <li>(ii) any relevant national policy statement; and</li> <li>(iii) any relevant national environmental standards; and</li> <li>(iv) if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement; and</li> </ul> | <b>In relation to (a)(i), refer Sections 8.2.4, 8.2.5 &amp; 8.2.6 (p. 110-112) of the substantive application report. In relation to (a)(ii), refer Sections 8.2.1 &amp; 8.2.2 (p. 104- 109) of the substantive application report. In relation to (a)(iii), the New Zealand coastal policy statement is not relevant to this application. The Site is not within a coastal environment.</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Sections 8.2.4 - 8.2.6 of the substantive application report, as referenced and RFI response dated 5 October 2026.</li> <li>ii) Section 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 of the substantive application report, as referenced and RFI response dated 5 October 2026.</li> <li>iii) Not relevant.</li> </ul> |
|                                           | (a) in relation to any proposed approval that is a resource consent, whether, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, there are any existing resource consents of the kind referred to in section 30(3)(a).                                                                                                                           | <b>Refer Section 3.1.2 (p. 17) of the substantive application report.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Section 3.1.2, page 17 of the substantive application report, as referenced and Appendix C.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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| 13(4)(y)(ii),<br>clause 3 of<br>Schedule 5  | <p><b>Change or cancellation of resource consent condition</b></p> <p>The information to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(ii) is information about whether and how the change or cancellation of the condition is material to the implementation or delivery of the project.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>N/A – No change or cancellation of any resource consent condition is proposed.</b> | N/A |
| 13(4)(y)(iii),<br>clause 4 of<br>Schedule 5 | <p><b>Certificate of compliance</b></p> <p>The information required to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(iii) is information that shows the activity that the certificate of compliance is intended to cover can be done lawfully in the particular location without a resource consent. Include information that shows that the activity that the certificate of compliance is intended to cover can be done lawfully in the particular location without a resource consent.</p> | <b>N/A – A certificate of compliance is not sought as part of this application.</b>   | N/A |
| 13(4)(y)(iv),<br>clause 2 of<br>Schedule 6  | <p><b>Concession</b></p> <p>(1) The information in subclause (2) is required to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(iv) if a proposed concession includes a lease and—</p> <p>(a) the lease would be for a term (including any renewals) that will or is likely to be more than 50 years; and</p> <p>(b) the granting of the lease would trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return.</p>                                                                        | <b>N/A – A concession is not sought as part of this application.</b>                  | N/A |

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|                                            | (2) Confirmation that the applicant has written agreement from the holder of the right of first refusal or right of offer or return to waive that right for the purposes of the proposed lease.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                         |     |
| 13(4)(y)(v),<br>clause 23 of<br>Schedule 6 | <p><b>Land exchange</b></p> <p>(1) The information required to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(v) is (a) - (e) below:</p> <p>(a) a description of both land areas proposed for exchange (for example, maps showing areas and location, addresses, and legal descriptions where possible:</p>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>N/A – A land exchange is not sought as part of this Application.</b> | N/A |
|                                            | (b) the financial value of the land proposed to be acquired by the Crown:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>N/A</b>                                                              | N/A |
|                                            | <p>(c) a brief description of the conservation values of both pieces of land, including an explanation of why the exchange would benefit the conservation estate:</p> <p><i>Guidance note: This must include an explanation of why the exchange would benefit the conservation estate; and details of anything registered or noted for conservation purposes on the record of title for the land to be acquired by the Crown (clause 23(1A) of Schedule 6)</i></p> | <b>N/A</b>                                                              | N/A |

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|                                             | (d) if the land exchange would trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return, confirmation that the applicant has written agreement from the holder of the right of first refusal or right of offer or return that the holder has agreed to waive that right for the purpose of the land exchange:                                                                                                             | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                             | (e) confirmation by the applicant that no part of any land to be exchanged by the Crown is –<br>(i) land listed in Schedule 4; or<br>(ii) a reserve declared to be a national reserve under section 13 of the Reserves Act 1977                                                                                                                                                                                                 | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 13(4)(y)(vi),<br>clause 4A of<br>Schedule 5 | <p><b>Standard freshwater fisheries activity approval</b></p> <p>(4A) The information required to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(vi) is the following:</p> <p>(a) whether an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure) and the extent to which the proposed structure may impede fish passage; and</p> <p>(b) whether any fish salvage activities are proposed.</p> | <p><b>A standard freshwater fisheries activity approval is sought.</b></p> <p><b>In relation to (a), details of proposed in-stream structures are in Section 5.3.3 (p.56-57) of the substantive application report and an assessment</b></p> | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>a) Section 5.3.3, page 56-57 of the substantive application report, as referenced.</p> <p>b) Section 7.6.3, page 84 of the substantive application report.</p> |

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|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>of their effects on fish passage in Section 7.6.3 (page) of the substantive application report. In relation to (b), proposed fish salvage activities are described in Section 7.6.3 (p. 84-85) of the substantive application report and Appendix V (Condition H3 page 38).</b></p> |            |
| <p>13(4)(y)(via), clause 2 of Schedule 9</p> | <p><b>Complex freshwater fisheries activity approval</b></p> <p>(2) The information required to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(via) is the following:</p> <p>(a) whether an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure) and the extent to which this may impede fish passage; and</p> <p>(b) whether any other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.</p> | <p><b>N/A – A complex freshwater fisheries approval is not sought as part of this Application.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>N/A</p> |

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| 13(4)(y)(vii),<br>clause 2 of<br>Schedule 10  | <b>Marine consent</b><br>(1) The information required to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(vii) is–<br>(a) information about whether the Minister of Conservation is an affected person:                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>N/A – A marine consent is not sought as part of this Application.</b>                            | N/A |
|                                               | (b) additional information about whether the applicant has already made an application for a consent under the EEZ Act in relation to the project, and, if so,—<br>(i) details of any application made; and<br>(ii) the decisions made on that application; and<br>(iii) information about the matters that the Minister may consider under section 22(6): | <b>N/A</b>                                                                                          | N/A |
|                                               | (c) additional information (in a summary form) about compliance or enforcement action taken against the applicant by the EPA under the EEZ Act.                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>N/A</b>                                                                                          | N/A |
| 13(4)(y)(viii),<br>clause 2 of<br>Schedule 11 | <b>Access arrangement</b><br>(1) Confirmation that the applicant has complied with section 29 (for the purposes of section 13(4)(y)(viii)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>N/A – the Application does not seek an access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991.</b> | N/A |

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| 13(4)(y)(ix),<br>clause 15 of<br>Schedule 11 | <p><b>Mining permit</b></p> <p>(1) For the purposes of section 13(4)(y)(ix), the information is—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a copy of the relevant exploration permit or existing privilege to be exchanged for a mining permit that entitles the holder to mine a Crown owned mineral:</li> <li>(b) the name and contact details of the proposed permit participants and the proposed permit operator:</li> <li>(c) a proposed work programme for the proposed permit, which may comprise committed work, committed or contingent work, or both:</li> <li>(d) evidence of the technical or financial capability of the proposed permit holder to comply with and give proper effect to the work programme:</li> <li>(e) information about the proposed permit holder's history of compliance with mining or similar permits and their conditions:</li> <li>(f) the proposed date on which the substantive application is intended to be lodged:</li> <li>(g) if the authorised person proposes to provide information under section 37, the date on which the person intends to provide that information:</li> </ul> | <b>N/A – A mining permit is not sought as part of this Application.</b> | N/A |
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|  | <p>(h) the proposed duration of the permit:</p> <p>(i) if the proposed approvals include a mining permit for petroleum,—</p> <p>(i) a map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be same area as the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made), and the extent of the resource to which the development plan relates:</p> <p>(ii) the resources and reserves relating to the project, estimated in accordance with the Petroleum Resources Management System:</p> <p>(iii) a high-level overview of the following:</p> <p>(A) the proposed field development plan:</p> <p>(B) the proposed date for the commencement of petroleum production:</p> <p>(C) the economic model for the project:</p> <p>(D) the proposed duration of the proposed mining permit:</p> <p>(E) decommissioning plans:</p> |  |  |
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|  | <p>(j) if the proposed approvals include a mining permit for minerals other than petroleum,—</p> <p>(i) a map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be same area as the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made), and the extent of the resource and reserves to which the development plan relates:</p> <p>(ii) for minerals other than gold or silver, a report or statement confirming the ownership of the minerals targeted:</p> <p>(iii) whether the application will be for a Tier 1 or Tier 2 permit:</p> <p>(iv) an estimate of the mineral resources and reserves relating to the project, including a summary on acquisition of the data and the data underpinning the estimate (such as information on sample locations, grade, and geology):</p> <p>(v) an indicative mine plan:</p> <p>(vi) a high-level overview of the following:</p> <p>(A) the proposed mining method:</p> |  |  |
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|          | <p>(B) the proposed date for the commencement of mining and estimated annual production:</p> <p>(C) the economic model for the project:</p> <p>(D) the status of or anticipated timing for completing any prefeasibility or feasibility studies:</p> <p>(E) the proposed methods for processing mined material and handling and treating waste:</p> <p>(F) anticipated plans for mine closure and rehabilitation.</p> <p>(2) For the purpose of subclause (1)(j)(iv), for a Tier 1 permit application the resources and reserves relating to the project are to be estimated in accordance with a recognised reporting code such as JORC or NI 43-101.</p> |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                    |
| 43(2)(b) | <p>if the project is planned to proceed in stages,—</p> <p>(i) an outline of the nature and timing of the stages; and</p> <p>(ii) a statement of whether a separate substantive application is to be lodged for each of the stages; and</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>The Project will not be staged. Refer Section 5.5 (p. 60-62) of the substantive application report.</b></p> | <p><b>Yes, addressed.</b></p> <p>Section 5.5, page 60-62 of the substantive application report, as referenced.</p> |

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|          | (iii) an explanation of how each stage meets the criteria in section 22:                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                         |
| 43(2)(c) | the information that the applicant provided to the Minister when applying to have the project listed as a listed project and an explanation of how the substantive application is within the scope of the listed project. | <b>For Listing Application – refer Appendix A. For explanation of how the Application is within scope – refer Section 3.2.2.6 (p. 21) of the substantive application report.</b> | <b>Yes, addressed.</b><br>Appendix A and section 3.2.2.6, page 21 of the substantive application report, as referenced. |

## Appendix 2: Consultation Summary

The following agencies were consulted with to inform the assessment of the application for completeness. Each agency was requested to confirm whether the application documentation provided by the EPA regarding the proposal as provided by the applicant meets the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Act and is provided in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose of the Act in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

1. **Consultation with Matamata-Piako District Council** as the relevant consent authority for the following approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991:
  - Resource consent (section 42(4)(a) of the Act)

### Response from Matamata Piako District Council

#### **FTAA-2607-1268 : HINUERA SOLAR FARM APPLICATION - CONSULTATION REGARDING COMPLETENESS AND SCOPE (S46 FTAA).**

Thank you for your notification of the lodgement of the substantive application for the Hinuera Solar Farm made by Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited (the Applicant) under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA). It is understood that the application is for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a solar farm and battery energy storage facility with an installed capacity of approximately 100 MW DC, and a connection and supply of electricity to the national grid.

Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) has reviewed the substantive application as lodged, to assist the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its determination under Section 46 FTAA in respect of the approval sought for resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). In undertaking the review, the application has been assessed against the information requirements in Checklists A and J of the EPA's Guidance Tables. The outcome of our assessment is summarised below.

MPDC comments as follows regarding compliance of the substantive application with the requirements in Section 43(1)(e)(ii) FTAA:

| Relevant Clause (as per Schedule 5 of the FTAA)                                                                                               | MPDC Comment                                                                                                      |
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| Cl 5(1)(f) A description of any other resource consents, notices of requirement for designations, or alterations to designations required for | We provide the following comments for the EPA's consideration in determining whether the application is complete. |

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| the project to which the consent application relates.                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Cl 5(1)(g) An assessment of the activity against section 5, 6 and 7 of the Resource management Act 1991.                  | <p>The substantive application does not provide a robust assessment addressing all the relevant subsections of Section 6 and 7 RMA that are identified in the Application Report (SLR ref:880.016894-Hinuera Substantive Application-v1.0).</p> <p>For examples Sections 7(c) RMA (the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values) and 7(f) (maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment) are referred to in the Report, however no assessment is provided.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Cl 5(1)(h) an assessment of the activity against any relevant provisions in any of the documents listed in subclause (2). | Please see assessment below:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Cl 5(2)(a) a national environmental standard:                                                                             | <p>The Preliminary Site Investigation report supplied in Appendix K has concluded that, based on “past experience,” a HAIL I activity is not present on the site in relation to the concentration of cadmium (through the use of superphosphate fertilisers in the southern farm block). It is preferable that the assessment be supported by soil testing to provide a more robust determination under the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS).</p> <p>In addition, the report does not take into account the effluent pond in the middle of the solar array to the north of the site (which is assumed would be removed from primary production in order to make way for the solar arrays), in which case resource consent under the NES-CS may be required. The report needs to provide clarity on this matter.</p> |
| Cl 5(2)(c) a national policy statement:                                                                                   | <p>A substantive application does not include an assessment against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards (NPS-N);</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA), noting that the site<sup>4</sup> is within the Hauraki Gulf catchment and sections 7 and 8 of the HGMPA have the status of a National Policy Statement; and:</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Productivity Report supplied in Appendix EE does not include an assessment against the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Cl 5(2)(e) a regional policy statement or proposed regional policy statement:                                                                                                                                                                                                               | MPDC defers to the Waikato Regional Council's (WRC's) assessment of the application under the Waikato Regional Policy Statement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Cl 5(2)(f) a plan or proposed plan:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operative Matamata-Piako District Plan – see 5 (3) below.</li> <li>Operative, and proposed changes to the Waikato Regional Plan. MPDC defers to the WRC's assessment of the application under the Waikato Regional Plan.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Cl 5(3) an assessment of the activity against –</p> <p>a) Any relevant objectives, policies, or rules in a document listed in subclause (2); and</p> <p>b) Any requirement, condition, or permission in any rules in any of those documents; and</p> <p>c) Any other requirements in</p> | <p>Operative Matamata-Piako District Plan</p> <p>The substantive application does not assess the following objectives/policies of the Matamata-Piako District Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.4.2 Controlling activities - Objective 1 and Policy 1;</li> <li>2.4.6 Integrating land-use and infrastructure - Objectives and Policies;</li> <li>3.2.2.5 Earthquake hazard - Objective 1;</li> <li>3.3.2.1 Sustainable activities - Objective 3;</li> <li>3.7.2.1 Community infrastructure - Policy 9;</li> <li>3.8.2 Transportation - Objectives 2 and 7 and Policies 1 and 12.</li> </ul> <p>The assessment provided has not included the following rules of the District Plan, that could trigger additional land-use consent requirements under the District Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule 9.1.2(iii)(a)(v) – For the state highway network within a 100km/h speed environment, the Matamata-Piako</li> </ul> |

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| <p>any of those documents.</p> | <p>Development Manual requires either a 200m or 500m separation distance from intersections (depending on whether the road carries more, or less than 10,000 vehicles per day). The assessment has not demonstrated whether the proposed vehicle access from State Highway 29 would comply with the separation distance requirement from the Eddy Road/State Highway 29 intersection to the west of the site.</p> <p>Standards set out in Rule 8.9.2. However, compliance with the relevant Permitted Activity standards has not been demonstrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application proposes the installation of private three-waters infrastructure. However, the proposed infrastructure has not been assessed under the consent requirements and standards in Section 8.5 of the District Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding earthworks, the assessment does not satisfy the information requirements in Part B, Rule 1.1.2 (ii)(b), (ii)(e) and (ii)(i) of the District Plan and has not addressed the Performance Standards for Cleanfill in Part B, Rule 4.12 of the District Plan.</p> <p>Further, it is recommended that the applicable setbacks be clearly labelled and shown on the concept plans, to appropriately confirm that the solar arrays and all other buildings on the site will comply with the relevant District Plan setbacks from boundaries, the streams, and the National Grid line.</p> <p>Section 3.2.2.4 of the Substantive Application details the legal instruments registered on the relevant Records of Title. Regarding the existing water permit (Transfer 243649 on RT SA292/111), the Applicant should demonstrate that the Instrument will not affect the ability to complete the development in accordance with the Concept Design Plans.</p> <p><u>National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The substantive application does not assess Policy 5 of the NPS-FM)</li> <li>• Meteorological devices are a Permitted Activity under Rule 8.9.1.4, subject to compliance with the Performance Standards set out in Rule 8.9.2. However, compliance with the</li> </ul> |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>relevant Permitted Activity standards has not been demonstrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application proposes the installation of private three waters infrastructure. However, the proposed infrastructure has not been assessed under the consent requirements and standards in Section 8.5 of the District Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding earthworks, the assessment does not satisfy the information requirements in Part B, Rule 1.1.2 (ii)(b), (ii)(e) and (ii)(i) of the District Plan and has not addressed the Performance Standards for Cleanfill in Part B, Rule 4.12 of the District Plan.</p> <p>Further, it is recommended that the applicable setbacks be clearly labelled and shown on the concept plans, to appropriately confirm that the solar arrays and all other buildings on the site will comply with the relevant District Plan setbacks from boundaries, the streams, and the National Grid line.</p> <p>Section 3.2.2.4 of the Substantive Application details the legal instruments registered on the relevant Records of Title. Regarding the existing water permit (Transfer 243649 on RT SA292/111), the Applicant should demonstrate that the Instrument will not affect the ability to complete the development in accordance with the Concept Design Plans.</p> <p>National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)<br/>The substantive application does not assess Policy 5 of the NPS FM).</p> |
| <p>Cl 7 The assessment of an activity's effects on the environment must cover the following matters:</p> <p>7(a) any effect on the people in the neighbourhood and, if relevant, the wider community, including any social, economic, or cultural effects:</p> <p>7(b) any physical effect on the locality, including</p> | <p>The reports provided by the Applicant do not include sufficient detail to appropriately assess the following matters in Schedule 5, Clause 7 FTAA:</p> <p>7(a) &amp; (f): The substantive application refers to having the option of either utilising string inverters or string combiner boxes, as well as the option between central inverter stations or string transformer stations. The Acoustic Report in Appendix X does not appear to take these options into account in the assessment of noise on adjacent properties.</p> <p>7(a) &amp; (d): The final Cultural Values Assessment has yet to be received.</p> <p>7(a): The Reflected Light Effects Assessment included in Appendix M does not contain an assessment on those properties that are vacant but could have a dwelling on them as a Permitted Activity under the District Plan (and therefore form part of the existing</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| <p>landscape and visual effects:</p> <p>7(c) any effect on ecosystems, including effects on plants or animals and physical disturbance of habitats in the vicinity:</p> <p>7(d) any effect on natural and physical resources that have aesthetic, recreational, scientific, historical, spiritual, or cultural value, or other special value, for present or future generations:</p> <p>7(e) any discharge of contaminants into the environment and options for the treatment and disposal of contaminants:</p> <p>7(f) any unreasonable emission of noise:</p> <p>7(g) any risk to the neighbourhood, the wider community, or the environment through natural hazards or hazardous installations.</p> | <p>environment). In addition, the assessment does not provide data on potential glare on receptors, pre- vs post landscaping establishment on the site. It appears that the assessment relies on vegetation outside of the subject site, the retention of which is beyond the control of the Applicant. To determine whether adjacent receptors will potentially be affected by glare, the assessment should clarify its reliance on retention of landscaping outside of the subject site.</p> <p>7(b): The Landscape Effects Assessment in Appendix M places significant reliance on the proposition that solar farms constitute a ‘productive’ activity and that their increasing prevalence throughout New Zealand means they are becoming an accepted component of rural character. MPDC does not agree that this provides an appropriate basis for assessing the landscape and rural character effects of the proposal.</p> <p>The presence of one other solar farm within the Matamata-Piako District, at Te Aroha, is not considered sufficient to establish solar farms as a typical or prevalent component of the District’s rural character. Similarly, reliance on the increasing occurrence of solar local landscape context within which the proposal is to be established. The assessment should therefore focus on the extent to which the scale, form and physical characteristics of the proposed solar farm are compatible with the existing and anticipated rural character in this particular locality.</p> <p>Furthermore, we note that rural character is defined as follows under the District Plan:</p> <p>“Rural character” includes the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A predominance of natural features over human made features;</li> <li>High ratio of open space relative to built environment;</li> <li>Significant areas of vegetation in pasture, crops, forestry and/or indigenous vegetation;</li> <li>A rural working production environment;</li> <li>Presence of farmed animals;</li> <li>Noises, smells and effects associated with the use of rural land for a wide range of agricultural, horticultural and forestry purposes;</li> <li>Low population densities relative to urban areas;</li> </ol> |
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|                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h. Existence of some narrow and/or unsealed roads;</li> <li>i. General lack of urban infrastructure;</li> <li>j. At a district wide level, infrequently occurring rural based industry.</li> </ul> <p>While the proposed solar farm may represent a productive use of rural land in the broad sense, this does not in itself mean that its physical characteristics are consistent with the rural character identified in the District Plan. In particular, rural character as defined in the District Plan, is expressly characterised by a predominance of natural features over human-made features and a high ratio of open space relative to the built environment. The proposal would introduce extensive built elements within an otherwise open rural landscape.</p> <p>The assessment should address whether the scale, intensity, and physical form of this proposal, appropriately responds to the established rural character of the site and surrounding locality. On the information provided, MPDC does not consider that Appendix M has adequately assessed this.</p> <p>7(b): The Productivity Report supplied in Appendix EE does not assess the effects on the versatility of the productive soils on the site. This impacts the robustness of the assessment against the NPS HPL.</p> <p>7(g): The Flood Assessment provided in Appendix J, refers to creating a displacement effect on neighbouring properties of up to 120mm. The assessment does not clearly identify which properties would be affected by such displacement. In addition, the assessment relies upon the use of conditions and detailed design at building consent stage to ensure that any adverse displacement effects are avoided. MPDC considers that further details and analysis are needed at the resource consent stage, to determine the appropriate measure(s) to avoid such an effect and its effectiveness (as commensurate to the scale of the proposal).</p> |
| 5(5)(a) If a permitted activity is part of the proposal to which the consent application relates, a description that demonstrates that the | Please see comments under Clause 5(3) above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| activity complies with the requirements, conditions, and permissions for the permitted activity (so that a resource consent is not required for that activity under section 87A(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991) |  |
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**2. Consultation with Waikato Regional Council** as the relevant consent authority for the following approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991:

- Resource consent (section 42(4)(a) of the Act)

**Response from Waikato Regional Council**

**Re: Consultation regarding a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024**

Thank you for your letter dated 11 September 2026 notifying the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) that Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited (the applicant) has lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) relating to the Hinuera Solar Farm to construct, operate, and maintain a solar farm and battery energy storage facility with an installed capacity of approximately 100 MW DC, and connect and supply electricity to the national grid.

Your letter has requested the WRC provide a written response to the following matters:

- whether any relevant matters listed in clauses 5 to 9 of Schedule 5 (information required in resource consent application) have not been addressed or have not been provided in sufficient detail.
- whether the written notice under section 30(3)(b)/30(5), dated 13 July 2026, prepared by Waikato Regional Council remains accurate and final at the time of receiving this letter.

WRC confirms that there are no relevant matters within the Waikato Regional Council's purview listed in clauses 5 to 9 of Schedule 5 (information required in resource consent application) that have not been addressed or have not been provided in sufficient detail.

WRC has appreciated the early and continuous engagement for this application with the applicant to identify matters of interest to WRC. WRC also appreciates the numerous exchanges of information regarding draft condition development prior to lodgement of the substantive application.

I advise that the written notice under section 30(3)(b)/30(5), dated 13 July 2026, prepared by Waikato Regional Council is no longer fully accurate and our stance on whether a consent is required for the stormwater aspect of the proposal has changed. The applicant has subsequently satisfied WRC's only concern detailed in its letter dated 13 July 2026, relating to stormwater, and this matter has now been resolved.

Overall, WRC considers the application meets the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Act and has been provided in sufficient detail for the matters of relevance to the WRC to satisfy the purpose for which it is required, in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

## **Appendix 3: Further information requests and responses**

I sent 1 further information requests to the applicant during under section 46(2B) of the Act. The request and response are set out below.

### **Request for Further Information 1:**

- Date sent: 29 September 2026
- Topic:

41. Incomplete assessments against Section 6 and 7 of the RMA.
42. National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS)
43. Incomplete National Policy Statements Assessment
44. Incomplete assessment against the Operative Matamata-Piako District Plan
45. Insufficient detail in the assessment of effects on the environment

- Date of response: 5 October 2026



5 October 2026

Environmental Protection Authority  
Fast Track  
By Email: [projects@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:projects@fasttrack.govt.nz)

Dear Ben Bond

**RE: FTAA-2607-1268 – Completeness Check RFI**

Please see below responses to the request for information dated 29 September 2026. For ease of reference numbering in the below reflects numbering in your letter and the information requests have been copied over. We note that a number of the issues raised by Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) appear to be substantive matters rather than completeness matters, nonetheless a full response is provided.

Additionally, the project team met with MPDC on 1 October 2026 and discussed a number of the matters raised below. Where relevant, details of that discussion are included in the response. An updated version of conditions with track changes and comments in relation to matters agreed or outstanding with MPDC is appended at Attachment B. A clean word-version of conditions is also provided for use by the Panel.

**1 Assessment of Section 6 and 7 of the RMA**

*The substantive application does not provide a robust assessment addressing all the relevant subsections of Section 6 and 7 RMA that are identified in the Application Report (SLR ref:880.016894-Hinuera Substantive Application-v1.0).*

*For examples Sections 7(c) RMA (the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values) and 7(f) (maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment) are referred to in the Report, however no assessment is provided.*

Please provide a complete assessment against Section 6 and 7 of the RMA to satisfy Schedule 5, Clause 5(1)(g) of the FTAA.

An assessment of the proposal against sections 6 and 7 of the RMA are included in Section 8.3 of the substantive application. The assessment provided is holistic rather than clause specific, accordingly, additional detail is provided below.

The assessment against section 6 is considered to encompass all relevant clauses. However, it is acknowledged that subclause (d), being *the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine areas, lakes and rivers*, is not explicitly addressed. There is no current public access to the Mangawhero Stream on site, and none is proposed. Public access to the stream would be inappropriate given that the site is in private ownership and will be an operating solar farm with a range of hazards and health and safety considerations. Accordingly, the proposal is not considered to be inconsistent with Section 6(d) of the RMA.

The assessment against section 7 directly addresses the following clauses (a)(aa)(d)(i) and (j), the remaining clauses are discussed below.

- (b) *the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources*

The proposal provides for the development of a solar farm on land that is largely flat-gently sloping in nature and in close proximity to point of connection and in a manner



that allows for ongoing farm use. Accordingly, it is considered to an efficient use of rural land.

- (c) *the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values*

The proposal will result in a change of amenity associated with the site, noting the current predominance of pastoral use. However, as is set out in the landscape assessment<sup>1</sup>, the restoration and enhancement of waterways and wetlands within the site will have a positive effect on natural character and amenity values and overall, with consideration of screen planting, the project will have a low to very low impact on character and amenity. Accordingly, the project is not considered to run contrary to the direction provided in Section 7(c)

- (f) *the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment*

The proposal provides for the restoration of approximately 2.3ha of wetlands and microchannel areas and a further 2.38 hectares of riparian and marginal areas. As is set out in the Ecological Assessment and Substantive Application<sup>2</sup>, this will result in a net gain in biodiversity values and wetland extent. In addition, the change from dairy farming to sheep farming is expected to reduce environmental pressure on the land and impact on water quality and aquatic ecosystems through a reduced runoff of nutrients. Accordingly, the proposal will result in the enhancement of the quality of the environment.

- (g) *any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources*

At the end of the life of the solar farm, infrastructure is able to be removed and the site returned to exclusive pastoral use. Accordingly, the proposal does not permanently alter the availability of productive land. Additionally, the land under the solar panels is able to be utilised for productive purposes (most likely sheep farming) throughout the life of the project. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the direction provided by Section 7(g).

## 2 National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS)

*The Preliminary Site Investigation report supplied in Appendix K has concluded that, based on "past experience," a HAIL activity is not present on the site in relation to the concentration of cadmium (through the use of superphosphate fertilisers in the southern farm block). It is preferable that the assessment be supported by soil testing to provide a more robust determination under the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS).*

This is considered to be a substantive rather than completeness matter, nonetheless a response is provided as follows.

As is stated in section 1.2 of the Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI), the PSI has been prepared in accordance with the MfE Contaminated Land Management Guidelines (CLMG) No. 1 Reporting on Contaminated Sites in New Zealand (2021), which requires the PSI to contain sufficient

<sup>1</sup> Section entitled 'Landscape Effects', page 21.

<sup>2</sup> Section 7.6.4

information to make a 'risk-based decision'<sup>3</sup>. The report has been prepared by a suitable qualified and experienced practitioner. The PSI report has concluded that although HAIL activities have been confirmed at the Piece of Land, this will remain in production land following the development of the solar farm and is therefore not subject to the provisions of the NESCS as part of the proposed development. With specific reference to cadmium, the report (Table 4) states that 'based on our experience in similar agricultural properties, the historical application of superphosphate / phosphate is highly unlikely to result in cadmium concentrations exceeding the NESCS Soil Contaminant Standards (SCS) for commercial / industrial land use (1,300 mg/kg)'. To provide further context, cadmium concentrations typically recorded in shallow soil as a result of historical application of superphosphate are generally in the order of 1-3 mg/kg.

*In addition, the report does not take into account the effluent pond in the middle of the solar array to the north of the site (which is assumed would be removed from primary production in order to make way for the solar arrays), in which case resource consent under the NES-CS may be required. The report needs to provide clarity on this matter.*

*Please provide any further information you wish to have considered for the purposes of the EPA's assessment under s 46(1) in response to these comments from MPDC.*

The proposal does not include any disturbance to the existing effluent pond. This is demonstrated on the Indicative Site Layout included in Appendix O and is noted in Table 4 of the PSI.

### 3 National Policy Statements Assessment

*The substantive application does not include an assessment against:*

- *The National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards (NPS-N);*

Clause 1.3(2) of the NPS-N states:

*This National Policy Statement applies to all activities managed under the Act, except for infrastructure (as defined in the Act) and primary production (as defined in the National Planning Standards). (emphasis added)*

The proposal is for infrastructure as defined under the Act (being the RMA). Specifically, the definition of infrastructure under the RMA includes:

- (d) "facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person—
- (i) uses them in connection with the generation of electricity for the person's use; and
- (ii) does not use them to generate any electricity for supply to any other person".

Accordingly, the NPS-N is not relevant to this application.

- *The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA), noting that the site 4 is within the Hauraki Gulf catchment and sections 7 and 8 of the HGMPA have the status of a National Policy Statement*

The subject site is located within the Hauraki Gulf Catchment.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA) recognises the interrelationship between the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments and the ability of that interrelationship to sustain the

<sup>3</sup> MfE Contaminated Land Management Guidelines (CLMG) No. 1 Reporting on Contaminated Sites in New Zealand (2021).

life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands are matters of national significance.

Section 8 sets out the objectives of the management of the Hauraki Gulf and catchments are

- *the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:*
- *the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:*
- *the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of those natural, historic, and physical resources (including kaimoana) of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments with which tangata whenua have an historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship:*
- *the protection of the cultural and historic associations of people and communities in and around the Hauraki Gulf with its natural, historic, and physical resources:*
- *the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the contribution of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments to the social and economic well-being of the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand:*
- *the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, which contribute to the recreation and enjoyment of the Hauraki Gulf for the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand.*

The proposal has been developed in close consultation with mana whenua who note that the Mangawhero stream, the Waihou River and its tributaries are of importance to iwi. In reflection of those values the proposal provides for the enhancement of riparian margins and adjacent wetlands within the site resulting a net positive effect on water quality and aquatic habitats. Additionally, erosion and sediment control measures are included in proposed conditions and will ensure that any temporary effects on waterways are appropriately avoided or managed. Accordingly, the proposal will have a positive effect on the environment, and particularly on the waterways, that form part of the Hauraki Gulf Catchment while also protecting the cultural associations with those waterways.

- *In addition, the Productivity Report supplied in Appendix EE does not include an assessment against the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL)*

The productivity report has been prepared by an Agricultural Consultant. The author has addressed matters within his area of expertise. An assessment of the proposal against the NPS-HPL is included in Section 8.2.5 of the substantive application.

- *The substantive application does not assess Policy 5 of the NPS-FM.*

Policy 5 of the NPS-FM is:

*Freshwater is managed (including through a National Objectives Framework) to ensure that the health and well-being of degraded water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is improved, and the health and well-being of all other water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is maintained and (if communities choose) improved.*

This policy provides national direction rather than project specific direction. Nonetheless it is noted that the Substantive Application provides a full discussion on the effects of the proposal on the health and wellbeing of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems with the site<sup>4</sup> and

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<sup>4</sup> Refer section 7.6 of the Substantive Application

concludes that the proposal will result in an improvement in water quality and an increase in biodiversity values and extent of wetlands. Therefore, the proposal is consistent with the above policy insofar as it can be applied at a project level.

#### 4 Operative Matamata-Piako Management Plan

*The substantive application does not assess the following objectives..policies.. rules.. earthworks...*

The assessment provided in Appendices T and FF to the Application is considered to satisfy Schedule 5, Clause 5(3) and (5) of the FTAA in that the relevant objectives, policies, rules, requirements and conditions are assessed and the permitted activities forming part of the Project are demonstrated.

However, an additional assessment of the Project against the identified provisions is attached.

#### 5 Assessment of Effects on the Environment

*The reports provided by the Applicant do not include sufficient detail to appropriately assess the following matters in Schedule 5, Clause 7 FTAA:*

- *7(a) & (f): The substantive application refers to having the option of either utilising string inverters or string combiner boxes, as well as the option between central inverter stations or string transformer stations. The Acoustic Report in Appendix X does not appear to take these options into account in the assessment of noise on adjacent properties.*

As noted in section 6.2.1 of the Acoustic Assessment, final equipment makes/models will be determined at the time of detailed design. Accordingly for the purposes of an operational noise assessment the most conservative scenario (i.e. the highest likely noise levels) has been used in modelling. It is neither practical nor necessary to model every combination of possible components.

The comment provided from MPDC appears to be a substantive matter, rather than a completeness matter, nonetheless for the avoidance of doubt the Acoustic Assessment is considered to meet the requirements of Schedule 5, Clause 7 of the FTAA.

- *7(a) & (d): The final Cultural Values Assessment has yet to be received.*

An assessment of cultural values has been provided in the Substantive Application<sup>5</sup>; this assessment is based on extensive consultation with iwi groups and a full draft cultural values assessment. The assessment of cultural values is considered to be appropriate and complete for the purposes of an assessment under Schedule 5, Clause 7 of the FTAA.

Nonetheless a final version of the Cultural Values Assessment has now been endorsed by all parties and is attached at Attachment C. There have been no substantive changes between the draft and final versions and no changes to the assessment previously provided are required. The authors of the CVA have asked that it not be published on the website, but rather provided to the Panel in confidence.

- *7(a): The Reflected Light Effects Assessment included in Appendix M does not contain an assessment on those properties that are vacant but could have a dwelling on them as a Permitted Activity under the District Plan (and therefore form part of the existing environment). In addition, the assessment does not provide data on potential glare on receptors, pre- vs post landscaping establishment on the site. It appears that the*

<sup>5</sup> Section 7.7 of the Substantive Application



*assessment relies on vegetation outside of the subject site, the retention of which is beyond the control of the Applicant. To determine whether adjacent receptors will potentially be affected by glare, the assessment should clarify its reliance on retention of landscaping outside of the subject site.*

A response to this question is provided by Wayfinder, included in Attachment D.

- *7(b): The Landscape Effects Assessment in Appendix M places significant reliance on the proposition that solar farms constitute a 'productive' activity and that their increasing prevalence throughout New Zealand means they are becoming an accepted component of rural character. MPDC does not agree that this provides an appropriate basis for assessing the landscape and rural character effects of the proposal....*

A response to this question is provided by Wayfinder, included in Attachment D.

- *7(b): The Productivity Report supplied in Appendix EE does not assess the effects on the versatility of the productive soils on the site. This impacts the robustness of the assessment against the NPS-HPL.*

This comment from MPDC appears to be a substantive matter rather than a completeness matter. Nonetheless it is noted that when infrastructure is removed at the end of the life of the solar farm the physical characteristics of the land, including soil types or properties, will not have been changed such that the versatility of the site for land-based primary production is materially altered from the pre-development state.

- *7(g): The Flood Assessment provided in Appendix J, refers to creating a displacement effect on neighbouring properties of up to 120mm. The assessment does not clearly identify which properties would be affected by such displacement. In addition, the assessment relies upon the use of conditions and detailed design at building consent stage to ensure that any adverse displacement effects are avoided. MPDC considers that further details and analysis are needed at the resource consent stage, to determine the appropriate measure(s) to avoid such an effect and its effectiveness (as commensurate to the scale of the proposal).*

This is understood to be a substantive matter, rather than a completeness matter.

The flood assessment is based on a concept design which considers the possibility of a small area of fill in the northern portion of the site as one means of providing freeboard. It is under this scenario that there was a minor increase in flooding off site. As is noted in the assessment any off site effects could be avoided through a range of engineering and design solutions.

Proposed consent condition C7 requires that an updated flood modelling based on final design be provided to MPDC to ensure that there is no increase in flood levels or velocities. Given the layout of the site is refined through final design it is not reasonably practical to provide a full engineering solution at concept stage.

This has been discussed with MPDC and it is understood that with a slight change to condition C7, this approach is agreed.

## 6 Additional Comments

It is understood that these are all substantive or 'extra' matters, rather than completeness matters, however responses have been provided.

*It is recommended that the following reports be peer reviewed to ensure that the reports supplied are appropriately robust, commensurate with the scale of the proposal:*

- *Appendix H – Ecological Impact Assessment;*
- *Appendix J – Stormwater Management and Flood Modelling Report;*



HARMONY ENERGY  
NEW ZEALAND

- *Appendix K – Preliminary Site Investigation Report;*
- *Appendix M – Landscape Effects Assessment (including the Reflected Light Assessment); and*
- *Appendix X – Acoustic Assessment.*

It is understood that the extent of peer reviews is at the discretion of MPDC and is not a completeness issue. Nonetheless it is noted that all assessments have been provided by suitably qualified and experienced practitioners and the credentials of all report authors have been provided. In the event peer reviews are sought, Harmony Energy would prefer that these be focused on any particularly substantive matters of concern, with a blanket /broad approach avoided to the extent practicable.

*MPDC considers that a decommissioning bond in relation to the proposed Decommissioning Plan, should be provided for in the draft conditions*

While not specified, it is assumed that the purpose of a bond would be to mitigate any risk of the Applicant not fulfilling its obligations in respect of decommissioning.

A bond is not necessary due to the contractual terms that underpin the easement agreement and the finance structure. Specifically, Harmony's easement has a contractual obligation to the landowner to remediate the site at the expiry or termination of the easement, including repairing all damage and restoring the surface of the land to a suitable condition for pastoral or other agricultural use. At the time of financial close and annually thereafter the project must be audited to International Financial Reporting Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime. This process ensures that the company is able to meet its contractual obligations in respect of all aspects of the project, including decommissioning.

Further, if the project did enter a situation of near or actual insolvency after the solar farm had been constructed, then the project's lending bank will have security over the assets. The bank (or its appointed receiver) will decide whether its best course to recover debt is to sell the solar farm as a going concern (most likely) or realise the scrap value of the assets (very unlikely). In either case it will be impossible to realise any such value without stepping into the easement agreement (over which the bank will have security) and continuing to pay the landowner and performing the other obligations under the easement. If the bank (or any new owner of the solar assets) did not "step-in" it would run the risk of the landowner terminating the easement and taking ownership of the assets if remediation is not performed, which would then render it impossible for the bank to realise any value in the assets.

Lastly, in the event that Harmony Energy did not meet its contractual requirements and remediation was not carried out the landowner can elect to take ownership/control of the assets (and either operate them, sell them to a new operator, or realise them for a scrap value). The landowner will make this election because, in all circumstances, the residual value in the equipment (even recycle value at the end of life) will exceed the cost of remediation.

In addition to the contractual framework making a bond unnecessary, a bond would impose an additional economic burden to the project throughout its economic life.

*Due consideration should be given to whether construction traffic will require the use of any District Roads; and the potential effects on adjacent property owners/occupiers during the construction period. This does not appear to have been considered in the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan in Appendix Z.*

The Transport Assessment<sup>6</sup> notes that heavy vehicle deliveries will come predominantly from both the Auckland and Tauranga Ports. Nearby quarry locations are also identified, which indicates the most likely use of local roads in respect of aggregate import; however, it is noted that those locations will not be confirmed once contractors have been appointed and suppliers selected.

Even once contractors are appointed, it would not be practical to identify every local road that may be used by staff accessing the site. Construction staff traffic will be made up of light vehicles related to journey to work trips, which district roads are intended to carry. The site is also only accessible by State Highways, accordingly, construction staff access to the state highway network via district roads will be dispersed and most likely low in volume in any one place. Given the temporary nature of individual construction projects, it is also likely that construction staff will have finished or will be diverted from another project in order to build the solar farm and that as a result, whilst they may use different individual district roads to access employment, the overall quantum of trips is unlikely to change significantly.

*The substantive application notes that there will be staff on-site once the solar farm is operational, however no on-site car parks are proposed for staff members. It is recommended that provision be made for on-site parking (appropriately formed and marked). Earthworks and stormwater management measures associated with the parking areas will also need to be considered.*

On-site parking will be provided for staff. Both the Transport Assessment and the rules assessment indicate that performance criteria (9.1.2(iii)(a) for parking will be complied with. Formed and marked parking spaces will be provided on compacted gravel, likely adjacent to the O&M building.

*The substantive application proposes to either construct a new vehicle crossing onto State Highway 29 or utilise the existing crossing (referred to as "Vehicle Crossing 2"). The Applicant proposes to restrict the use of the existing vehicle crossing (if this option is chosen) to two heavy commercial vehicle (HCV) deliveries per hour (10 maximum per day) during the construction period. MPDC considers that such a restriction would be difficult to enforce and questions whether the restriction would practically be adhered to, particularly during the peak construction period.*

Under this scenario, this entrance would only be utilised for targeted deliveries, with all other deliveries directed to the main construction access. Accordingly, this could readily be managed by contractors.

*The Landscape Effects Assessment relies upon the use of mitigation planting on neighbouring land (70A and 70B Gore Road) to mitigate the visual effects of the proposed solar farm. The conditions drafted by the Applicant rely on third party agreement in respect of mitigating the visual effects on the aforementioned properties. MPDC questions whether it is appropriate to rely upon third party approvals in the conditions (if consent were to be granted)? Ideally Harmony should hold an easement which allows it to undertake and maintain the planting for the life of the solar farm.*

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<sup>6</sup> Section 10.1.2



This matter has been addressed in part in the response from Wayfinder included as Attachment D.

In summary, the landscape assessment notes that effects on the owners/occupiers of 70A and 70B Gore Road will be *High* in the absence of any planting within those properties, reducing to low if planting is established. The Substantive Application<sup>7</sup> also acknowledges this effect and explicitly states that this mitigation is not relied on for the purposes of consenting.

Additionally, the proffered condition of consent is provided to allow the owner of these properties to accept landscape planting at Harmony Energy's cost if they wish to do so. Third party approval is not relied on either within the application or within the proffered condition of consent.

This has been discussed with MPDC and it is understood that all parties agree that the wording of the condition does not place any reliance on third party approval.

We trust that this satisfies your requirements for the purpose of a completeness check.

With thanks,

Christina Walker  
Planning Director  
Harmony Energy