

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

IN THE MATTER

of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA)

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by Lodestone Energy Limited
under section 42 of the FTAA for the construction
of a solar farm

APPLICATION NO.

FTAA-2508-1097

**MEMORANDUM RESPONDING TO MINUTE ONE OF THE PANEL CONVENOR ON
BEHALF OF TE RŪNANGA O WAIHAO**

29 October 2025

Pam Walker
Kaiwhakamahere Matua Whakaaetaka (Senior Planner - Consents)
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Response to Minute 1 of the Panel Convener: Convener's Conference 1 [FTAA-2508-1097]

This memorandum is filed on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Waihao in advance of the convenor's conference scheduled for Monday 3 November 2025 at 10 am.

The Minute seeks participant views prior to a convenor's conference, that will inform decision of the Convenor regarding:

- a) Appointment of Panel Members.
- b) The timing of the panel decision.

Te Rūnanga of Waihao represent hapū who uphold the mana of the whenua.

The takiwā of Te Rūnanga o Waihao centres on Wainono, sharing interests with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua to Waitaki, and extends inland to Ōmārama and the Main Divide.

Te Rūnanga o Waihao have a shared interest in Te Manahuna with Te Rūnanga of Waihao and with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua.

Te Rūnanga o Waihao is satisfied with the timeframe set out in Schedule 1, however it should be noted that time will be needed to consider further information that has not been provided in the substantive application and to consider draft consent conditions.

It is considered that there may be legal complexity's in relation to this application: This is the first large solar farm to be established within Te Manahuna/Mackenzie Basin and one of multiple large scale solar farms proposed in proximity to each other – there are concerns about how to manage the cumulative effects of these applications.

In relation to issues there is a need to understand cumulative effects and in particular the cumulative effects on the cultural landscape; also the effects of the proposal at place particularly in relation to changing visual values as experienced by tūpuna.

In relation to consultation, the application was lodged with the EPA without Aukaha and Aoraki Environmental Consulting Limited (AECL) being informed. Aukaha and AECL were given the opportunity to review the draft ecological and landscape reports, but not the entire application.

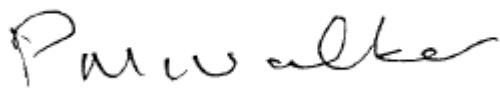
The site is located within Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASM) under the Mackenzie District Plan (MDP).

Lodestone's proposed condition that management plans be prepared following the approval of the consent does not provide an opportunity for rūnaka input into the contents of these management plans. The management plans should have been provided with the substantive application so they could be reviewed as part of the process. Further discussion needs to occur with rūnaka, including the proposal for a Kaitiaki Working Group.

Tikanga and Mātauranga are relevant to this application. Te Rūnanga o Waihao consider it is highly desirable that at least one member of the panel has understanding of Ngāi Tahu tikanga and Ngāi Tahu values.

Aukaha confirm it will be in attendance for the convenor's conference Monday 3 November 2025 at 10:00am:

Dated on: 29 October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pam Walker', written in a cursive style.

Pam Walker

Kaiwhakamahere Matua Whakaaetaka (Senior Planner - Consents)