



19 January 2026

Green Steel Expert Panel
Fast-track, Environmental Protection Authority
Sent by e-mail: info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Kia ora,

FAST-TRACK APPLICATION BY GREEN STEEL – FTA084

In Minute 10 of the Expert Panel, it requested information from the Applicant (“Green Steel”), and WEL Networks Limited (“WEL”) if it wished to do so, in relation to connecting an electricity supply to Green Steel’s site.

The purpose of this letter is to assist the Expert Panel by addressing the questions set out in paragraph 9 of Minute 10.

Background

Green Steel submitted (to WEL) an application for a large industrial connection on WEL’s network in April 2024. The nominated retailer was confirmed, and WEL’s application fee was paid, in May 2024.

Green Steel seeks a connection for 56 MW of electricity supply.

WEL has engaged in discussions with Green Steel since receiving its application and provided its letter dated 19 May 2025 which was included in Green Steel’s Fast-track application.

As is WEL’s usual process for new connection applications, WEL has carried out initial work including a high-level options review for supplying Green Steel’s site. A detailed assessment of the options will be carried out after the project has been approved.

Questions from the Expert Panel

(a) Whether the supply of 56MW of electricity to the site will or is likely to require new or additional infrastructure on or over the Saxtons’ property

At this stage, a number of potential options have been identified to supply electricity to Green Steel. While the 110 kV network is an option, it is not presently an option being considered by WEL.

It is noted that the 110 kV network referred to as ‘main transmission power lines’ is owned by Transpower. WEL does not own any part of this 110 kV network.

WEL’s policy is for infrastructure to be installed in road reserve wherever practicable. However, if new assets need to be installed on private land, WEL will secure easements which would require approval from the landowner.





After the project has been consented, the connection method will then be determined.

(b) What consideration has been given to the effects on the Saxtons or any other property that might be affected by such infrastructure

WEL manages connection arrangements separately of customer project approvals and, if landowner consent (via easements) or resource consents are required for the connection, these will be addressed once the connection method is confirmed. Because the final design for this connection has not yet been determined, the exact connection requirements cannot be established at this stage.

WEL has an obligation to comply with applicable district and regional plan requirements. Wherever practicable, WEL will install its assets in the road reserve.

(c) If no such consideration has yet been given, an assessment of these effects

Electricity supply does not form part of this Fast-track application. Once the connection method is finalised, any resource consent or easement requirements will be addressed separately by WEL who will obtain the necessary approvals. WEL will manage this process, as part of its normal operations.

(d) What legal rights are there for the infrastructure and power supply to be on and/or over the Saxtons' property without their agreement, or that of any other private owner

The 110 kV network is owned by Transpower. WEL does not own any part of this 110 kV network.

The Electricity Act 1992 provides protection of 'existing works'. The owner of such works has rights to enter upon land to inspect, maintain and operate those works.

Any easements required to establish new infrastructure on private property would be subject to landowner negotiations and agreements and registered under the Land Transfer Act 2017.

(e) What other realistic options are there for the supply of the required 56MW of electricity to the site, and how have these been assessed for their potential effects

There are a number of realistic options for the required supply of 56MW to the site. These will be assessed in more detail, in order to select the preferred option, once consent approval is obtained for the Green Steel plant.

Yours sincerely

Sara Brown
WEL Networks Limited

