

5 October 2026

Environmental Protection Authority
Fast Track
By Email: 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 assessment¹, 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 Application², 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 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).

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

¹ Section entitled ‘Landscape Effects’, page 21.

² Section 7.6.4



information to make a 'risk-based decision'³. 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

³ 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 site⁴ and

⁴ 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 Application⁵; 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*

⁵ 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;*



- *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 Assessment⁶ 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.

⁶ 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 Application⁷ 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

⁷ Section 7.4

Attachment A:

Additional Assessment against identified provisions of Matamata-Piako District Plan

Provision / Requirement	Assessment
2.4.2 Controlling Activities	
<i>O1 To manage activities in a manner that gives certainty to the public as to the potential location and effects of activities.</i>	The Project envelope, as described in the Substantive Application, provides certainty on the maximum extent of activities, and the effects assessment has assessed the maximum effects of the Project. This provides certainty on the effects that may result.
<i>P1 To implement effective separation between incompatible activities while recognising that some existing activities may not be able to provide effective separation within their sites.</i>	As described in the Substantive Application, sheep and solar farming are complementary, and the solar farm will not impact on existing productive rural activities on surrounding properties. No separation is required.
2.4.6 Integrating land-use and infrastructure	
<i>O1 Land-use, subdivision and infrastructure are planned in an integrated manner that:</i> • Does not compromise the function, operation, maintenance, upgrading or development of infrastructure, including regionally significant infrastructure; • Recognises the need for the provision of infrastructure; and subdivision, land-use and development to be co-ordinated; and • Ensures the sustainable management of natural and physical resources while enabling people and communities to provide for their economic, social, and cultural wellbeing.	As described in the Substantive Application, the Project is located within close proximity to the Hinuera substation, with a point of connection appropriate for the size of the Project. It is co-ordinated with, and does not compromise existing infrastructure. The production of renewable energy by the Project will have significant benefits in enabling communities to provide for their economic, social and cultural wellbeing.
<i>P1 Rezoning, new development, and expansion/ intensification of existing development shall take place where:</i> • The operation, maintenance, upgrading, or development of infrastructure, including regionally significant infrastructure, is not compromised; • There is sufficient capacity in the infrastructure networks to cope with the additional demand, or where the existing networks can be upgraded cost-effectively to meet that demand; • The networks have been designed to carry the type of service including the type and volume of traffic required to support the development; and	As above, the Project is located within close proximity to the Hinuera substation, with a point of connection appropriate for the size of the Project. It is co-ordinated with, and does not compromise existing infrastructure. As described in the Substantive Application, adverse effects on the environment are appropriately avoided, remedied, and mitigated.

Adverse effects on the natural and physical environment can be appropriately avoided, remedied, and mitigated.	
<i>P2 Land use and infrastructure must be co-ordinated so that:</i> - Development can be appropriately serviced by infrastructure in a cost-effective manner; - Land use change does not result in adverse effects on the functioning of infrastructure networks; and - Development does not adversely affect the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure networks.	The Project does not adversely affect infrastructure networks and does not require reticulated servicing.
<i>P3 Subdivision and development which result in the uneconomic expansion of existing infrastructure shall be avoided.</i>	N/A. The Project does not result in the uneconomic expansion of existing infrastructure.
<i>P4 The increased demand on infrastructure is managed by requiring subdivision and development to be co-ordinated with the provision of infrastructure and integrated with the transport network and the District's road hierarchy.</i>	N/A. The Project does not result in increased demand on infrastructure.
<i>P5 The role of sustainable design technologies such as rainwater harvesting, rain gardens and grey water recycling in reducing pressures on, and the cost of providing, maintaining, and upgrading infrastructure networks, is recognised.</i>	N/A. The Project does not place pressure on infrastructure/water networks.
3.2.2.5 Earthquake hazard	
<i>O1 To minimise the risks of earthquakes affecting people and property in the District as far as practicable.</i>	Earthquake / liquefaction risk to the solar infrastructure will be addressed via following the recommendations of the geotechnical report.
3.3.2.1 Sustainable activities	
<i>O3 To safeguard the life-supporting capacity of the District's high quality soils by preventing inappropriate further fragmentation of rural land titles.</i>	N/A. The Project does not include subdivision or fragmentation of rural land titles.
3.7.2.1 Community infrastructure	
<i>P9 Stormwater is managed having regard to a total catchment management approach and low impact design methods.</i>	As described in the Substantive Application, stormwater will be managed appropriately to ensure that rainfall is safely conveyed, infiltrated, or detained without creating erosion, flooding, or downstream impacts.
3.8.2 Transportation	
<i>O2 A safe, efficient, integrated, and environmentally sustainable transport network that ensures our social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.</i>	As described in the Substantive Application, the Project will maintain the safety and efficiency of the transport network.
<i>O7 Provision for parking and loading is adequate to ensure the safety and efficiency of the road network, without stifling development or leading to inefficient use of land.</i>	As described in the Substantive Application and Transport Assessment, adequate parking and loading will be provided onsite to meet all the needs of

	the construction and operational phases and the safety and efficiency of the road network will not be affected.
<i>P1 Subdivision, use and development shall be managed to recognise, enable, and protect:</i> <i>The primary function of significant transport infrastructure as inter-regional connectors; and</i> <i>The local, regional, and national benefits of significant transport infrastructure.</i>	As described in the Substantive Application and Transport Assessment, consultation with NZTA has occurred and NZTA is satisfied that the Project can occur in a manner which recognises and protects the function of the State Highways.
<i>P12 To ensure that subdivision and development takes into account the existing and proposed capacity and design of the transportation networks and that any adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</i>	As assessed in the Transport Assessment (Appendix E to the Substantive Application), any adverse effects of the Project on the transportation networks are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Rules	Assessment
<i>Rule 9.1.2(iii)(a)(v) – For the state highway network within a 100km/h speed environment, the Matamata-Piako 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.</i>	Eddy Road is an unformed stub road. The Eddy Road intersection is approximately 180m west of access option 1 to State Highway 29. This does not comply with the MPDC Development Manual separation distance. As per the Substantive Application, consent is already sought for the new access as a discretionary activity under Rule 9.1.2(5). The relevant rule does not change as a result of this non-compliance.
<i>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 relevant Permitted Activity standards has not been demonstrated.</i>	Rule 8.9.2 refers to the zone development controls and district wide development controls in 3.5-3.7 and 3.9. The relevant controls in this case are the rural zone controls in 3.2.1 of the plan. The Project is assessed against these development controls in Appendix T to the Application which states that all buildings <u>and infrastructure</u> will comply with height, height in relation to boundary and setbacks.
<i>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.</i>	As described in the Substantive Application, details of potable water and wastewater infrastructure to serve the site once operational will be determined at the detailed design stage. However, all potential components of this infrastructure are permitted under section 8.5 of the District Plan – including underground pipes, water storage tanks and domestic scale on-site wastewater disposal systems. As per above and assessed in Appendix T to the

	Application, any water storage tanks will meet the rural zone development controls.
<i>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.</i>	The information requirements for earthworks plans are addressed in Appendix T to the Substantive Application (p32) at an appropriate level of detail to understand the Project. In particular, the assessment refers to Appendix P (Civil Concept Design Plans) as showing the extent and nature of proposed earthworks/cleanfill deposition. Refer to drawing set C220's. The Performance Standards for Cleanfill in Part B, Rule 4.12 are addressed in Appendix T to the Substantive Application (page 37). In that assessment it is noted that the cleanfill deposition associated with this Project is for construction of roads and foundations, rather than bulk disposal of cleanfill, therefore not all aspects of the cleanfill requirements are applicable.
<i>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.</i>	While a replacement plan is not considered to be required at this time, we can confirm that the PV module area shown on the Overall Layout Design Plan in Appendix O to the Substantive Application complies with all relevant District Plan setbacks from boundaries (25m front, 10m side) and streams (20m), as per the rules assessment in Appendix T (p34). The assessment also notes that solar panels are excluded from the definition of a building. No building will be located within 20m of the centreline of a sub-transmission line (Appendix T, p35). Solar panels will comply with NZECP 34 regardless.
<i>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.</i>	The legal instruments are detailed in Section 4.1.1 of the Substantive Application. A copy of the water right is included in Appendix D to the Application. It refers to a shared well, a windmill and pumping apparatus constructed to supply water serving two farm properties in 1930. These properties, Lot 1 DP 11891 and Lot 2 DP 11891 are now held in the same ownership (which Harmony has a caveat over) and the rights are therefore redundant. Further, there is no windmill and pump in existence on the property.

Attachment B:

Updated Condition Set (Track Change)



Appendix V

Proposed Consent Conditions

Harmony Energy NZ #6 Ltd

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting New Zealand

SLR Project No.: 880.016894.00001

5 October 2026

Revision: Final V1.1 MPDC changes incorporated

Index of Resource Consents

Table 1: Index of Resource Consents

Ref.	Details	Local Authority	Conditions	Lapse Period	Duration
RC1	Land use consent Matamata-Piako District Plan	MPDC	Parts A – E	10 years	-
RC2	Land use consent Waikato Regional Plan & NES-F	WRC	Parts A, B, C & F	10 years	10 years
RC3	Water Permit Waikato Regional Plan	WRC	Parts A, B, C & G	10 years	15 years
RC4	Water Permit Waikato Regional Plan	WRC	Parts A, B, C & H	10 years	15 years
RC5	Land use consent Waikato Regional Plan & NES-F	WRC	Parts A, B, C & I	10 years	35 years



Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and definitions are relevant to all consent conditions.

Table 2: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BESS	Battery Energy Storage Systems
BMP	Bat Management Plan
Cleanfill	Material that when discharged to the environment will have no adverse effect on people or the environment. This includes natural materials such as clay, soil and rock and other inert materials such as concrete and brick, or mixtures of any of the above and excludes: 1. material that has combustible, putrescible or degradable components; 2. materials likely to create leachate by means of biological or chemical breakdown; 3. any products or materials derived from hazardous waste treatment, hazardous waste stabilisation or hazardous waste disposal practices; materials such as medical and veterinary waste, asbestos or radioactive substances that may present a risk to human health; 4. soils or other materials contaminated with hazardous substances or pathogens; and 5. hazardous substances.
CMP	Construction Management Plan
CNVMP	Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan
Completion of Construction	When construction of the project (or the relevant part of the project) is complete and available for use.
Construction	Refers to work associated with the development of the Site. This excludes enabling works.
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DORP	Decommissioning or Re-powering Plan
Enabling Works	Works undertaken to prepare the Site for construction. This may include: • The installation of vehicle entranceways and construction of internal roading • Construction of laydown area(s) and site compound (including placement of temporary offices and utilities), and parking bays for construction workers • Establishment of security and/or stock fence • Removal of vegetation and infrastructure (such as fencing and water troughs) • Installation of erosion and sediment control measures • Commencement of site studies and surveys to further detailed designs.
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
FENZ	Fire and Emergency New Zealand



High Risk Erosion Area	Means any part of the Site: a) where the pre-existing slope of the land exceeds 25 degrees; or b) adjacent to water bodies (including ephemeral watercourses draining catchments greater than 100 hectares, but excluding any other ephemeral rivers or streams), where: i) the land slope is between 0 degrees to 15 degrees – within 10 metres from any lake, wetland or the bed of a river or lake, or ii) the land slope is greater than 15 degrees – within that distance from the wetland, the bed of a river or lake, or from mean high water springs to the first point at which the slope reduces to 15 degrees or less, or 100 metres (whichever is the lesser, outside the minimum distance described in i)).
HNZPT	Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
HSSSMP	Hazardous Substance and Site Safety Management Plan
IDP	Incidental Discovery Protocol – native birds and lizards
MPDC	Matamata-Piako District Council
NES-CS	Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011
NES-F	Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Freshwater) Regulations 2020
NZTA	New Zealand Transport Agency
Operation/Operational Date	The period after which the Project is connected to the national grid, fully commissioned and generating power.
OSMP	Operational Site Management Plan
Project	The construction, operation and maintenance of the Hinuera Solar Farm
RLMP	Restoration and Landscape Management Plan
RMA	Resource Management Act 1991
Site	Means the site boundary as depicted on the Indicative Site Layout Plan referenced HIN-01.00 R0 dated 28-05-26.
SH	State Highway
SQEP	Suitably Qualified and Experienced Practitioner. A person (or persons) who can provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate their suitability and competence in a relevant field or expertise. For the purposes of the NES-CS, SQEP means a suitably qualified environmental practitioner for the purposes of the assessment of contaminated land (guidance on what is expected of the Suitably Qualified and Experienced Person is provided in the NES-CS Users' Guide 2012.)
Stabilised/stabilise	Means inherently resistant to erosion or rendered resistant to erosion through the application of the proven methods of stabilisation, specified in the WRC's <i>Erosion and Sediment Control – Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities</i> (Technical Report No. 2009/02 – dated January 2009, including 2014 factsheets), or



	alternative methods with the prior agreement of WRC. Where seeding, grassing or hydroseeding is used, the surface is considered stabilised once a minimum of 80% vegetative cover has been established over the entire surface.
WAPCMP	Weed and Animal Pest Control Management Plan
wds	"Working days" as per section 2(1) of the RMA.
WRC	Waikato Regional Council



Condition Structure

Proposed conditions of consent are structured as follows:

Table 3: Condition Structure

Relevant to all Resource Consents	
Part A	General Conditions
Part B	Management Plan Conditions
Part C	Pre-Construction Conditions
Relevant to RC1 (Matamata-Piako District Council)	
Part D	Construction Conditions
Part E	Post Construction Conditions
Relevant to RC2 – RC5 (Waikato Regional Council)	
Part F	Waikato Regional Council certificate 01: Land use consent
Part G	Waikato Regional Council certificate 02: Water permit
Part H	Waikato Regional Council certificate 03: Water permit
Part I	Waikato Regional Council certificate 04: Land use consent



Part A – General Conditions

These conditions relate to RC1 – Matamata-Piako District Council and RC2 - RC5 – Waikato Regional Council

A1. Except as modified by the conditions in this consent, the Project must be undertaken in general accordance with the application documentation lodged on XXX [and additional information received during the process] and the approved plans and documents as detailed in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Approved Plans and Documents

Documents	Reference	Revision	Date
Indicative Site Layout	HIN-01.00	R0	28-05-26
PV Module Areas	HIN-02.00	R0	29-05-26
Hinuera Solar Farm - Civils Concept Plans (Maven Matamata)	MM-0809	C	21-05-26
- Erosion and Sediment Control Plans - Cut/Fill Plans - Roading Plans - Flood Model Plans - Panel and Utility Plans	Sheet C200s Sheet C220s Sheet C300s Sheet C410s Sheet C700s		
Typical Tracker Details	2025-TRACKER	R0	06-10-25
Typical BESS Container	2025-BESS LAYOUT	R0	04-06-25
Typical Power Conversion Unit 20 ft	2025-PCU-20ft	R0	21-07-25
Typical Power Conversion Unit 40 ft	2025-PCU-40ft	R0	21-07-25
Typical Trenching Detail	2025-TRENCHING	R0	21-07-25
Typical Fencing Details	2025-FENCING	R0	21-07-25
Typical CCTV Detail	2025 - CCTV	R0	21-07-25
Typical Water Tank	2025-WATER TANK	R0	06-10-25
Draft Construction Management Plan	HIN-dCMP	0.1	June 2026
Draft Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan	880.016894.00003	1.0	24 June 2026
Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CKL)	B25385	1	26 June 2026
Draft Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	MM-0809	RC	19-05-26
Bat Management Plan	880.016894.00001	1.2	25 June 2026
Draft Hazardous Substance and Site Safety Management Plan	880.016894.00005	1.0	19 June 2026



Documents	Reference	Revision	Date
Draft Restoration and Planting Plan including Part A: Restoration and Planting Management Plan and Part B: Weed and Animal Pest Control Management Plan	880.016894.00001	1.0	16 July 2026
Riparian/Wetland Planting North	Landscape Effects Assessment Attachment 2, Sheet 05	R03	05-08-26
Boundary Planting South	Landscape Effects Assessment Attachment 2, Sheet 06	R03	05-08-26
Geotechnical Investigation Report	HAM2025-0095AB	2	13 January 2026
Stormwater Management & Flood Modelling Report	MM-0809 – Hinuera Solar Farm	C	19-05-26

Where there is any inconsistency between this documentation and the conditions of consent, the conditions of consent prevail.

Term of Consent

- A2. The consent will commence in accordance with section 116 of the RMA and provides for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the solar farm for a period of 35 years.

Lapse

- A3. The consent lapses 10 years after the date on which it commences unless given effect to before that date.

Charges

- A4. That pursuant to Section 36(1)(c) [and 360](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Consent Holder must pay MPDC and WRC all actual and reasonable costs associated with monitoring this consent, including but not limited to costs associated with:
- Site visits;
 - Review and certification of Management Plans;
 - Monitoring of works, and
 - Administration.

Review

- A5. At any time during the period July through September inclusive, in the second year following the commencement of the consent and every five years thereafter, MPDC may, following service of notice on the consent holder, commence a review of the conditions



of this consent pursuant to section 128(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the following purposes:

- a. Responding to any adverse effect on the environment which may arise from the exercise of the consent and which it is most appropriate to deal with at a later stage. These effects include, but are not limited to, those that may arise in relation to:

- i. construction management effects;
- ii. dust management;
- iii. noise;
- iv. glint and glare;
- v. landscaping;
- vi. traffic;
- vii. hydrological effects; and
- viii. ecological effects.

Commented [EB1]: Altered to clarify it relates to effects arising from construction management

- b. to review the effectiveness of the conditions of these resource consents in avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment and if necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate such effects by way of further or amended conditions; and/or
- c. if necessary and appropriate, to require the holder of this resource consent to adopt the best practicable option to remove or reduce adverse effects of a discharge on the surrounding environment, and/or
- d. to review the adequacy of monitoring undertaken by the Consent Holder.

A6. At any time during the period July through September inclusive, in the second year following the commencement of the consent and every five years thereafter, WRC may, following service of notice on the Consent Holder, commence a review of the conditions of this consent pursuant to section 128(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the following purposes:

- a. to review the effectiveness of the conditions of these resource consents in avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment and if necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate such effects by way of further or amended conditions; and/or
- b. if necessary and appropriate, to require the holder of this resource consent to adopt the best practicable option to remove or reduce adverse effects of a discharge on the surrounding environment, and/or
- c. to review the adequacy of monitoring undertaken by the Consent Holder.

Advice Note:

Costs associated with any review of the conditions of this resource consent will be recovered from the Consent Holder in accordance with the provisions of section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Accidental Discovery Protocols

- A7. In the event that an unidentified archaeological site, remains, artefacts, taonga (Maaori artefacts) or koiwi are unearthed, dislodged, uncovered or otherwise found or discovered



~~is located~~ during works, the ~~following applies~~ Consent Holder must implement an Accidental Discovery Protocol which must consist of the following actions:

- a. Works shall cease immediately at that place and within 20m around the site.
- b. The contractor must shut down all machinery, secure the area and advise the Site Manager.
- c. The Site Manager shall secure the site and notify the HNZPT Archaeologist. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
- d. If the site is of Māori origin, the Site Manager shall notify the HNZPT Archaeologist, Ngāti Haua, Raukawa and Ngāti Hinerangi of the discovery and ensure site access to enable appropriate cultural procedures and tikanga to be undertaken, as long as all statutory requirements under legislation are met (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, Protected Objects Act 1975).
- e. If human remains (kōiwi tangata) are uncovered the Site Manager shall advise the HNZPT Archaeologist, NZ Police, Ngāti Haua, Raukawa and Ngāti Hinerangi and the process under (a)-(b) shall apply. Remains are not to be moved until such time as Ngāti Haua, Raukawa, Ngāti Hinerangi and HNZPT have responded.
- f. If it is not clear whether a bone is human, work must cease in the immediate vicinity until a specialist can be consulted and a definite identification made.
- g. The site shall be secured in a way that protects the kōiwi as far as possible from further damage.
- h. Works affecting the archaeological site and any human remains (kōiwi tangata) shall not resume until HNZPT gives written approval for work to continue. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
- i. Undertake specific preservation measures to address any discovery that includes water-logged or wet archaeological materials.
- ~~h.i.~~ Not recommence works in the parts of the project Site affected by the discovery until all necessary statutory authorisations or consents have been obtained.

A8. If taonga, including artefacts such as carvings, stone adzes, and greenstone objects are discovered, the Consent Holder shall ensure the following protocols are complied with:

- a. The area containing the taonga will be secured in a way that protects the taonga as far as possible from further damage.
- b. Consultation will be undertaken with Ngāti Haua, Raukawa and Ngāti Hinerangi, who will advise on appropriate tikanga and be given the opportunity to conduct any cultural ceremonies that are appropriate.
- c. An archaeologist will examine the taonga and advise HNZPT of the finding.
- d. These actions will be carried out within an agreed stand down period and work may resume at the end of this period or when otherwise advised by HNZPT.
- e. The Archaeologist will notify the Ministry for Culture and Heritage of the find within 28 days as required under the Protected Objects Act 1975. This can be done through the Auckland War Memorial Museum.
- f. The Ministry for Culture and Heritage, in consultation with Ngāti Haua, Raukawa



and Ngāti Hinerangi, will decide on custodianship of the taonga (which may be a museum or the iwi whose claim to the artefact has been confirmed by the Māori Land Court). If the taonga requires conservation treatment (stabilisation), this can be carried out by the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland (09-373-7999) and would be paid for by the Ministry. It would then be returned to the custodian or museum.

Advice Note:

This protocol does not apply when an archaeological authority issued under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 is in place. An Archaeological Authority issued under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 is a legal document and supersedes the discovery protocols. These discovery protocols cannot override the legal conditions of an archaeological authority.

It is an offence under s 87 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 to modify or destroy an archaeological site without an authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga irrespective of whether the works are permitted, or consent has been issued under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Complaints Register

- A9. At the commencement of enabling works, the Consent Holder must install visible signage on the Site boundary which identifies the Consent Holder and a contact person employed by the consent holder who can be contacted 7 days a week in the event of an emergency or complaint.
- A10. The Consent Holder must maintain and keep a complaints register for complaints regarding all aspects of the works authorised by this consent, received by the Consent Holder. When complaints are received, the Consent Holder must record the following details in the complaints register:
- a. The date, time and duration of the event/incident that has resulted in a complaint;
 - b. The location of the complainant when the event / incident (if possible, specify nature of incident e.g. dust nuisance) was detected;
 - b-c. Name, address and contact phone number of the complainant (if provided);
 - c-d. The possible cause of the event / incident;
 - d-e. The weather conditions and wind direction at the Site when the event / incident allegedly occurred;
 - e-f. The response made by the consent holder including any corrective action undertaken by the consent holder in response to the complaint;
 - f-g. Future actions proposed as a result of the complaint; and
 - g-h. Any other relevant information.
- A11. The register must be available to WRC and MPDC at all reasonable times. WRC and MPDC must be notified of any complaint received that relates to the activities authorised by these resource consents as soon as reasonably practicable and no longer than two (2) wds after receiving the complaint.
- A12. The Consent Holder must respond to any complainant as soon as reasonably practicable and, within five (5) wds, advise WRC, MPDC and the complainant of the



outcome of the Consent Holder's investigation and all measures taken, or proposed to be taken, to respond to the complaint.



Part B – Management Plan Conditions

These conditions relate to RC1 – Matamata-Piako District Council and RC2 - RC5 – Waikato Regional Council

Management Plan Certification

- B1. The Consent Holder must prepare the following Management Plans for certification by MPDC and/or WRC as specified in Table 5. The Consent Holder must prepare the Management Plans in accordance with the requirements of the relevant conditions.
- B2. The Consent Holder must ensure the Management Plans:
- Provide the overarching principles, methodologies and procedures for managing the effects of the Project to achieve the environmental outcomes and performance standards required by these conditions.
 - Are implemented by the Consent Holder in accordance with the conditions of consent and timeframes in Table 5.
- B3. All Management Plans [\(including any amendments/updates to those plans\)](#) must be prepared by a SQEP.

Table 5: Management Plans to be certified

Management Plan	Regulatory Authority	Condition Reference	Documents to Council for Certification – Minimum Timeframe
Construction Management Plan	MPDC	D5-D6	20 wds prior to commencement of works authorised by this consent (excluding enabling works).
Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan	MPDC	D7-D8	20 wds prior to commencement of works authorised by this consent (excluding enabling works).
Construction Traffic Management Plan	MPDC	D9-D10	20 wds prior to commencement of works authorised by this consent (excluding enabling works).
Bat Management Plan	MPDC	D11-D12	20 wds prior to commencement of enabling works authorised by this consent.
Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	WRC & MPDC	F1-F2	10 wds prior to commencement of enabling works authorised by this consent.
Incidental Discovery Protocol – Native Birds and Lizards	MPDC	D25	10 wds prior to commencement of enabling works authorised by this consent.
Operational Site Management Plan	MPDC	E3	20 wds prior to the Project becoming operational

Commented [EB2]: Not agreed to add MPDC as additional certifier - adds unnecessary duplication and procedural complexity.
Also not agreed to send ESCP to MPDC for comments prior to sending to WRC for certification. Existing conditions allow for copy of certified ESCP to be provided to MPDC.



Management Plan	Regulatory Authority	Condition Reference	Documents to Council for Certification – Minimum Timeframe
Hazardous Substance and Site Safety Management Plan	MPDC	E8	20 wds prior to the Project becoming operational
Restoration and Landscape Management Plan	MPDC	E10-E13	20 wds prior to the Project becoming operational
Weed and Animal Pest Control Management Plan	MPDC	E16-E17	20 wds prior to the Project becoming operational
Decommissioning or Repowering Plan	MPDC	E20-E23	Two years prior to decommissioning or the 30-year anniversary of the commencement of the Project, whichever is the sooner.

Advice note: To assist the Councils with the certification process, the Consent Holder is encouraged to provide the Councils with three weeks notice prior to each management plan being submitted for certification.

- B4. The Consent Holder must submit the above management plans to WRC/MPDC for certification in accordance with the timeframe specified in Table 5.
- B5. The certification process must be limited to confirming that the management plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant condition(s) and application documents referred to in condition A1, contain the required information and will achieve the objectives of the management plan.
- B6. If WRC/MPDC's response is that it is not able to certify the management plan, it may provide the Consent Holder with reasons and recommendations for changes to the management plan. The Consent Holder must consider any reasons and recommendations of WRC/MPDC and resubmit an amended management plan for certification.
- B7. Works authorised by this consent must not commence until all relevant management plans, identified in Table 5, have been certified by WRC/MPDC as appropriate.

Amendments to Management Plans

- B8. The Consent Holder may make amendments to a certified management plan before the relevant works (or relevant portion of works) are undertaken, subject to certification by WRC/MPDC, prior to an amendment taking effect. Any such amendment must be consistent with the objectives, performance requirements and technical requirements of the management plan and relevant consent conditions. The existing certified plan will continue to apply until a revised plan has been certified.
- B9. If WRC/MPDC's response is that it is not able to certify the proposed amendments, the Consent Holder must consider any reasons and recommendations of MPDC and resubmit an amended management plan for certification, or revert to the previously certified management plan.



- B10. All amendments to a management plan must be certified in writing before the Consent Holder implements the changes to the site works.

Implementation / Compliance

- B11. The Consent Holder must implement and comply with the following certified Management Plans for the duration of construction activities:
- Construction Management Plan
 - Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan
 - Construction Traffic Management Plan
 - Bat Management Plan
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
 - Incidental Discovery Protocol [\(Native Birds and Lizards\)](#).
- B12. The Consent Holder must implement the following certified Management Plans, as soon as practical, but no later than 30 wds following the Project becoming operational:
- Operational Site Management Plan
 - Hazardous Substance and Site Safety Management Plan, including Emergency Response Plan and Battery Safety Storage Management Plan.
- B13. The Consent Holder must implement the Restoration and Planting Management Plan and Weed and Animal Pest Control Management Plan in the first planting season immediately following ~~completion~~ commencement of construction. [Staging of planting must provide for planting adjacent to State Highways to be implemented in the first planting season.](#)
- B14. The Consent Holder must implement the certified Decommissioning / Repowering Plan within the decommissioning/repowering phase as specified in the plan.
- B15. The Consent Holder must provide MPDC with a copy of the final ESCP certified by WRC.
- B16. The Consent Holder must ensure that a copy of this consent and all certified management plans are kept onsite at all times that physical works authorised by this consent are being undertaken and must be produced without unreasonable delay upon request from an agent of the WRC/MPDC. For the avoidance of doubt, Management Plan copies may be digital.

Commented [EB3]: Changes as discussed in meeting with MPDC



Part C – Pre-Construction Conditions

These conditions relate to RC1 – Matamata-Piako District Council and RC2 - RC5 – Waikato Regional Council

Representative

- C1. Prior to the commencement of construction works, the Consent Holder must appoint a representative(s) who must be MPDC and WRC's principal contact person regarding matters relating to this consent. The Consent Holder must inform the MPDC and WRC of the representative's name and how they can be contacted. Should that person(s) change during the term of this resource consent, the Consent Holder must immediately inform the MPDC and WRC and must also give written notice to the MPDC and WRC of the new representative's name and how they can be contacted.

Pre-start Meeting

- C2. Prior to the commencement of enabling works, the Consent Holder must hold a pre-start meeting that is located on the Site and is scheduled not less than 10 wds prior to the commencement of enabling works. The following parties must be invited to attend with no less than 10 wds notice:
- MPDC and WRC Monitoring Officer(s), or delegated representatives;
 - Ngāti Haua, Raukawa and Ngāti Hinerangi representatives;
 - Representatives of the contractors who will undertake operations on Site; and
 - The project archaeologist.
- C3. The purpose of the pre-start meeting is to ensure that all relevant parties are aware of and understand the requirements for compliance with the consent conditions, the certified management plans, and relevant statutory requirements such as the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. A copy of the final conditions of consent, any certified management plans, and other environmental management tools, including but not limited to the accidental discovery protocol (Condition A7) must be made available by the Consent Holder at the pre-start meeting.

Advice note:

In the case that any of the invited parties, other than the contractor's representative or the project archaeologist does not attend this meeting, the Consent Holder will have complied with this condition, provided the invitation requirement is met.

Pre-construction Road Survey

- C4. The Consent Holder must undertake a survey of the road condition of SH27 and SH29 within 100m of the construction accesses prior to construction commencing. This survey is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced professional and provided to NZTA prior to the commencement of construction.

Commented [EB4]: Not agreed to add requirement for locating all existing services in the road reserve and notifying owners prior to commencement of work in road reserve requested by MPDC. Already covered by other legislation / utility operator requirements

Commented [EB5]: MPDC requested changes to the requirements for the road survey - not agreed, as this condition has already been agreed with NZTA, the relevant road controlling authority



~~Advice note: The survey of the road condition shall not be limited to the road surface and will include any culverts or similar infrastructure that forms part of the road reserve.~~

Cultural Induction and Karakia

- C5. The Consent Holder must, at least 10 wd prior to the commencement of enabling works, invite Ngāti Haua, Raukawa and Ngāti Hinerangi to:
- Collectively name the Project.
 - Provide a karakia prior to the commencement of enabling works.
 - Undertake a cultural induction for key site personnel and assist in the preparation of written induction material.

Pre-construction Analysis

- C6. The Consent Holder must undertake an updated reflected light analysis for the final solar farm layout and ensure that no 'yellow glare' will be generated beyond the boundaries of the Site. In the event that the analysis determines there will be yellow glare at any sensitive receptor or road, temporary screening (such as shade cloth) must be installed ~~at that receptor~~ to mitigate yellow glare until such time as vegetation provides screening of glare. This analysis must be provided to MPDC's Planning Manager prior to the commencement of construction.
- C7. The Consent Holder must undertake updated flood modelling for the final solar farm layout and ensure that no increase in flood levels or velocities will be generated beyond the boundaries of the Site. This analysis must be provided to MPDC's Development Engineering Team Leader prior to the ~~completion~~ commencement of construction.
- C8. Should tree clearance be proposed between September to January inclusive of any year, the Consent Holder must undertake a pre-felling survey to assess whether any active native bird nests are present. If active native bird nests are identified, felling of the nest tree must be deferred until chicks have fledged or the nest fails.

Commented [EB6]: As discussed at MPDC meeting, to avoid seeming to rely on third party land

Commented [EB7]: As discussed at MPDC meeting



Part D – Construction Conditions

These conditions relate to RC1 – Matamata Piako District Council

Design certification

- D1. The Consent Holder must engage an appropriately experienced chartered geotechnical engineer to provide a PS2 design review producer statement for the subsoil investigations, foundation/pile design and pavement design to be constructed and stating that the works have been suitably investigated and are properly designed in accordance with good engineering practice and in accordance with the application documents identified in Condition A1. A copy of the geotechnical PS2 design review producer statement and relevant material must be forwarded to MPDC's Development Engineering Team Leader at least ten (10) wds before commencement of construction of the structure(s).

Roading and access

- D2. The Consent Holder must submit a detailed design and location plan for temporary and permanent vehicle crossings to MPDC's Development Engineering Team Leader for certification at least 20wds prior to commencement of enabling works. At the time of submission to MPDC, the Consent Holder shall provide evidence that NZTA has reviewed, and is satisfied with, the design.

Any new access to SH29 and the upgraded access to SH27 are to be designed in accordance with the NZTA Access Guide Type E, unless otherwise agreed between the Consent Holder and NZTA.

- D3. At the commencement of enabling works, the Consent Holder must construct the new and upgraded vehicle crossings in accordance with the design certified under Condition D2.

Advice Note:

A vehicle crossing application needs to be completed, submitted to NZTA and approved before construction begins. A NZTA officer will need to conduct a site visit to verify the upgrading works.

- D4. All [parking](#), loading and unloading of any vehicle must be carried out within the Site.

Management Plans

Construction Management Plan

- D5. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a final Construction Management Plan to MPDC's Development Engineering Team Leader for certification. The CMP must be in general accordance with the draft CMP dated May 2026 identified in Condition A1.



D6. The purpose of the CMP is to avoid, remedy and/or mitigate adverse effects arising from construction of the Project. The CMP must include, but not be limited to:

- a. Confirmation of the construction works program, including sequencing of work and construction methodology.
- b. Expected hours of construction (and any required limits on hours of construction with reference to the CNVMP and BMP).
- c. Identification of the key personnel and contact person(s).
- d. Methods and systems to inform and train all persons working on the Site of potential environmental issues and how to avoid, remedy or mitigate and potential effects.
- e. Procedures for ensuring that surrounding property owners and occupiers are given prior notice of the commencement of construction works and are informed about the expected duration of the works.
- f. Procedures for communicating with surrounding property-owners and occupiers during construction works, including engaging with property owners and occupiers to minimise disruption to farming activities, consulting prior to any high noise generating activities, and implementing procedures to ensure action is taken into any complaints received.
- g. Dust management measures for earthworks, the movement of vehicles and any other dust generating activity including the use of water carts or sprays to suppress dust on an as required basis, to ensure that any dust is not noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable.
- h. Reference to, or inclusion of the CNVMP required by Condition D7 to ensure compliance with the noise and vibration requirements outlined in Conditions D14 and D15.
- i. Reference to, or inclusion of, the CTMP required by Condition D9.
- j. Reference to, or inclusion of, the ESCP required by Condition F1 of WRC Consent [Certificate 01].
- k. Measures to ensure compliance with the BMP, as set out in Condition D11.
- l. Measures to ensure compliance with the IDP, as set out in Condition D25.
- m. Inclusion of the Accidental Discovery Protocols required by Condition A7 and a list of contact names and numbers relevant to accidental discovery.
- n. Construction machinery and methodology restrictions required to comply with Conditions F10-F14 of WRC Consent [Certificate 01].
- o. Cultural induction processes for all parties working at the Site.
- p. Cleanfill acceptance criteria and record keeping requirements in accordance with Conditions F17-F19 of WRC Consent [Certificate 01].

Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan

D7. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a final CNVMP prepared by a SQEP to MPDC for certification. The CNVMP must be in



general accordance with the draft CNVMP dated 24 June 2026 identified in Condition A1.

- D8. The objective of the CNVMP is to identify and require the adoption of the Best Practicable Option for ensuring compliance with the relevant conditions of this consent and minimising any other unnecessary noise and vibration. The CNVMP shall include (but not be limited to), the following matters:
- a. The roles and responsibilities of the personnel in the contractor team for managing and monitoring noise levels and effects;
 - b. Expected hours of construction (and any required limits on hours of construction);
 - c. Construction machinery and equipment that will be used (and their operating noise levels);
 - d. The timing and duration of specific construction activities over the total construction period;
 - e. The location and proximity of neighbouring dwellings;
 - f. Systems or procedures for receiving and resolving any community complaints about noise emissions, including noise monitoring, where appropriate;
 - g. Induction and training procedures for construction personnel;
 - h. Methods and measures to mitigate noise and vibration effects;
 - i. Use of maps to identify any areas of piling that are likely to exceed the consented construction noise limits without specific attenuation or management; and
 - j. Identification of suitable methods of noise or vibration attenuation or management that should be used to comply with the noise and vibration limits set out in Condition D14 and D15 when piling within these areas and/or any procedures that must be implemented prior to construction work beginning in these areas.

Construction Traffic Management Plan

- D9. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a Detailed CTMP to MPDC for certification. The Detailed CTMP must be in general accordance with the Framework CTMP dated May 2026 identified in Condition A1. At the time of submission to MPDC, the Consent Holder shall provide evidence that NZTA has reviewed and is satisfied with the CTMP.
- D10. The purpose of the Detailed CTMP is to avoid, remedy and/or mitigate effects associated with construction traffic. The Detailed CTMP must include, but not be limited to:
- a. Roles, responsibilities and contact details, including for public enquiries;
 - b. Construction programme and proposed activities;
 - c. Expected number of vehicle movements, particularly heavy vehicle numbers during each phase of construction;
 - d. Hours of work;
 - e. Construction traffic routes, including suitable routes and management for over-dimension vehicles in the event such vehicles are required;
 - f. Nature and duration of any temporary traffic management proposed;



- g. Temporary traffic management signage / details to appropriately manage vehicles and pedestrians in the vicinity of the Site;
- h. Details of Site access / egress over the entire construction period;
- i. Details of movement limitations through the existing access at 4739 SH29, should this be used, to a maximum of 2 HCV deliveries per hour and 10 HCV deliveries per day and minimising other use of this access;
- j. Any road upgrades proposed;
- k. Location of onsite parking and loading areas for deliveries;
- l. Measures to prevent, monitor and remedy tracking of dust and sediment onto public roads;
- m. Measures for monitoring and repairing damage to roads, as required by Conditions D26-D28; and
- n. A code of conduct for drivers.

Advice Note:

This consent does not constitute authorisation to work on the road. Works affecting the road will require NZTA approval for access to the corridor.

Bat Management Plan

- D11. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a final version of the Bat Management Plan to MPDC for certification. The BMP must be in general accordance with the BMP dated May 2026 identified in Condition A1.
- D12. The objective of the BMP is to outline management actions to be implemented to minimise the risk of disturbance and injury/mortality of long-tailed bats during construction and operation of the solar farm. The BMP must include (but is not limited to):
- a. Identification of any trees with potential bat roost characteristics that are proposed for clearance;
 - b. Provision for pre-commencement bioacoustics / physical surveys of potential roost trees that are proposed for clearance;
 - c. Requirements to be met prior to the felling of potential roost trees;
 - d. Steps to be taken in the event of a confirmed roost tree;
 - e. Steps to be taken in the event of accidental discovery of an injured or dead bat;
 - f. Details of how impacts on bats from the construction activities will be avoided, minimised or mitigated, including to implement:
 - i. Noise and vibration control measures within defined exclusion areas of any tree identified as having an occupied bat roost during the pre-commencement survey;
 - ii. Restrictions on artificial lighting at night within a 25m buffer of any tree identified as having an occupied bat roost during the pre-commencement survey;



- g. Reporting requirements at the completion of vegetation clearance, including the submission of all pre- and post-clearance survey results to the Department of Conservation;
- h. Details of the activities to be undertaken to compensate for the loss of potential bat foraging and roosting habitat. This must include:
 - i. riparian and wetland restoration planting of at least 4.81ha across the Site, which may include reference to the RLMP required by Condition E10;
 - ii. pest control within restored areas and across the whole Site within the fenced area; and
 - iii. the enhancement of a 1ha or greater area identified as having the potential for roost trees close to the Site;
- i. Details of additional offsetting contingency measures should a confirmed roost tree need to be removed; and
- j. Review requirements.

Design Noise Compliance Report

- D13. No later than three weeks prior to the installation of the BESS and inverter units, the Consent Holder must submit a Design Noise Compliance Report prepared by a SQEP to MPDC. The report must:
- a. Include the finalised Project layout, selected equipment and quantity;
 - b. Identify the sound power levels (LWA) for the equipment;
 - c. Include a Special Audible Characteristics assessment and apply adjustments if required in accordance with NZS 6802:2008 where Special Audible Characteristics are predicted to be present at any notional boundary; and
 - d. Confirm the mitigation measures required to achieve compliance with the limits in Condition E4 under representative worst-case operating conditions.

Construction Standards

Noise

- D14. Noise arising from construction shall not exceed the limits in the table below when measured and assessed 1m from the façade of any occupied dwelling in accordance with New Zealand Standard NZS 6803:1999 – Acoustics Construction Noise. The construction noise limits do not apply at any building that is unoccupied during construction work.

NZS6803:1999 states that noise should not be measured for more than one-hour at any location, and that 15-minutes will often be adequate.

Time of Week	Time Period	Long-term duration of Construction work (more than 20 weeks)	
		dB LAeq	dB LAmax
Weekdays	6:30 am – 7:30 am	55	75



Time of Week	Time Period	Long-term duration of Construction work (more than 20 weeks)	
		dB LAeq	dB LAmax
	7:30 am – 6:00 pm	70	85
	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	65	80
	8:00 pm – 6:30 am	45	75
Saturdays	6:30 am – 7:30 am	45	75
	7:30 am – 6:00 pm	70	85
	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	45	75
	8:00 pm – 6:30 am	45	75
Sundays and public holidays	6:30 am – 7:30 am	45	75
	7:30 am – 6:00 pm	55	85
	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	45	75
	8:00 pm – 6:30 am	45	75

Vibration

D15. Construction vibration must be measured and assessed in accordance with German Standard DIN 4150-3:1999 “Structural Vibration – Part 3: Effects of Vibration on Structures” and comply with the limits in Tables 1 and 3 of the Standard when measured on the foundation of any neighbouring building and within 500mm of ground level.

Infrastructure

Solar Panels

D16. Solar panels must be mounted on Single Axis Tracking frames and must:

- Be a maximum of 3250mm above finished ground level and have a minimum ground clearance of 300mm;
- Be mounted so as to provide a minimum separation distance of 4.5m centres between Single Axis Tracking panels; and
- Have a maximum tilt angle of 60 degrees from horizontal.

CCTV

D17. Perimeter CCTV must be:

- no greater than 10m in height; and
- where planting is present, be located on the interior of landscape planting; and
- contained within a recession plane starting 3m above the existing ground level of all Site boundaries and projecting inwards at a 45 degree angle.

Lighting



D18. Outdoor lighting must be designed and installed in accordance with the following requirements:

- a. Lighting associated with security cameras must be infrared;
- b. Lights must be shielded to avoid upward light spill; and
- c. Lighting must not result in added illuminance in excess of 10 lux at the window of any building that is not on the Site.

Security Fencing

D19. The security fencing around the boundary of the operational area of the Site must be no greater than 2.4m in height and must be located internal to any landscape/ecological planting.

Buildings and Structures

D20. Buildings and Containers on the Site for the purposes of operations, maintenance and storage must have a combined maximum area of 500m² and must not include more than five (5) 40ft shipping containers.

The maximum floor area does not include uncovered decking or ramps/stairways.

D21. There must be no more than:

- a. 170,000 photovoltaic modules;
- b. 90 Battery Energy Storage Systems with a maximum footprint of with a maximum footprint of 16m² each, provided that up to two (2) may be combined into a single structure resulting in an overall footprint of 32m²;
- c. 30 central inverter or string transformer stations with a maximum footprint of 16m² each, provided that up to two (2) may be combined into a single structure resulting in an overall footprint of 32m².
- d. One (1) switching station building with a maximum footprint of 80m².

Provided that the above is not intended to provide a full list of all infrastructure on Site and does not restrict additional unlisted and/or ancillary infrastructure.

D22. Battery Energy Storage Systems and Power Conversion Units/String Inverters that contain petrochemicals must incorporate either bunding or a containment tank, fitted with an appropriate interceptor/separator to avoid any discharge of petrochemicals to the environment. No draining of oil or hazardous substance within Battery Energy Storage Systems and/or Power Conversion Units/String Inverters is to be undertaken on the Site. This condition does not restrict testing of oil in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

Advice note:

The purpose of this condition is to ensure that the project does not involve any 'high risk facility' and complies with the Waikato Regional Plan stormwater discharge rules.



Contaminated Soils

D23. There must be no soil disturbance within 10 metres of the NES-CS Piece of Land (oxidation ponds, farm buildings, rubbish pit) as identified in the Preliminary Site Investigation by SLR Consulting dated 26 May 2026.

D24. In the event of an incidental discovery of contamination during soil disturbance which has not been previously identified, the Consent Holder must immediately cease the works within 20 metres of the contamination hotspot, notify MPDC, engage a SQEP to assess the situation (including possible sampling and testing) and decide in conjunction with MPDC on the best practicable option for managing material.

Advice Note:

At the time of issuing of these consents, no consent has been sought or issued associated with contaminated material. In the event that it is discovered, the consent holder will need to assess whether any additional consents are required from MPDC or WRC.

Incidental Discovery Protocol – Native Birds and Lizards

D25. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit to an Incidental Discovery Protocol to MPDC for certification. The IDP must require:

- a. All incidental discoveries of dead or injured native birds or lizards to be reported to the Department of Conservation. If feasible, the location, photographs and cause of injury/death shall be reported to the Department of Conservation.
- b. Injured birds or lizards to be immediately transported to a veterinarian experienced in indigenous wildlife rehabilitation.

Advice Note:

Approvals may also be required under the Wildlife Act 1953, so the Consent Holder must ensure that the methodologies adopted under this consent do not conflict with any requirements of that Act.

Road Survey and Maintenance

D26. During the construction period, three-monthly inspections of SH27 and SH29 within 100m of the construction accesses must be undertaken by the Consent Holder. Any damage must be repaired by the Consent Holder to a condition which, as a minimum, is as far as practicable consistent with the road's standard as surveyed via Condition C4.

Any repairs are to be made at the Consent Holder's expense.

D27. Notwithstanding the requirements of Condition D26, any damage that, in the view of NZTA, has the potential to result in adverse traffic safety effects must be repaired by the Consent Holder as soon as practicable to a condition which, as a minimum, is as far as practicable consistent with the road's standard as surveyed via Condition C4. Any repairs are to be made at the Consent Holder's expense.

D28. Within three months of the completion of construction, the Consent Holder must undertake another survey of the road condition of SH27 and SH29 within 100m of the



construction accesses at their expense. The Consent Holder will be responsible for any repairs required to the condition of SH27 and SH29 arising from the exercise of its consents to ensure it is at the same standard as the survey undertaken under Condition C4.

Landscape Plan – 70A and 70B Gore Road

- D29. Within three months of commencement of construction, the Consent Holder must make a written offer to the owner(s) of 70A and 70B Gore Road (Part Lot 1 DP 35794) to appoint a SQEP to develop, in consultation with the owner(s), a landscape plan to reasonably respond to landscape effects of the Project on the dwelling and curtilage area of the dwellings at 70A and 70B Gore Road.
- D30. The Consent Holder has complied with Condition D29 if at the end of six weeks following the offer described in Condition D29:
- a. The owner of Part Lot 1 DP 35794 agrees in writing to the offered response; or
 - b. The owner of Part Lot 1 DP 35794 does not provide a response, or does not agree to the offer; or
 - c. An alternative agreement is reached between the Consent Holder and the owner of Part Lot 1 DP 35794.
- D31. The Consent Holder must provide MPDC with a description of the outcome agreed under Condition D30(c) within ten wds of the agreement being reached.
- D32. If the offer described in clause D29 is accepted in accordance with Condition D30(a), the following applies:
- a. The appointed SQEP must complete a landscape plan for each of the dwellings identified in condition D29 at the Consent Holder's cost. The objective of the landscape plan is to reduce the landscape effects from the Project on each dwelling and curtilage area as far as reasonably practicable. The response may include a planting area with a maximum area of 200m² within Part Lot 1 DP 35794; and
 - b. The Consent Holder must, at their cost, arrange for planting to be established in the next available planting season; and
 - c. After implementation of the planting, the Consent Holder must repair or replace any defects within the first six months of that planting being established.
- This condition is reliant on the agreement of the owner of Part Lot 1 DP 35794 for access. The Consent Holder has complied with this condition if the owner of Part Lot 1 DP 35794 refuses reasonable access to the property.



Part E – Post Construction Conditions

These conditions relate to RC1 – Matamata Piako District Council

Educational/Community/iwi Visits

- E1. Educational/community/iwi visits to the Site must be limited to ten per year.
- E2. The Consent Holder must maintain a register of visits to the Site and produce that register within 48 hours on request from a duly authorised officer of the MPDC.

Operational Site Management Plan

- E3. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit an Operational Site Management Plan to MPDC for certification. The purpose of the OSMP is to ensure the solar farm is operated in a manner that avoids, mitigates or remedies adverse effects on the environment. This should include, but not be limited to:
- Measures for scheduled maintenance and off-site monitoring of equipment.
 - Measures to ensure that broken or faulty panels and equipment are removed from the outdoors as soon as reasonably practicable.
 - Measures to ensure discarded panels are appropriately disposed of off-site. The number of panels replaced and the disposal method must be recorded.
 - Reference to, or inclusion of, the ongoing maintenance requirements set out in the certified RLMP and WAPCMP.
 - Measures for arranging and recording educational/community/iwi visits to the Site.
 - Measures for managing operational traffic, including in relation to educational/community/iwi visits to the Site.
 - Reference to, or inclusion of, the IDP in Condition D25.

Operational Noise

- E4. Noise rating levels generated by the operation of the Project shall not exceed the following limits when measured and assessed at or within the notional boundary of surrounding properties:

Receiver	Time Period	Noise Limit
Rural Zone Dwellings within the: - South Waikato District; or - Matamata-Piako District	7:00am to 10:00pm (Daytime)	50 dB LAeq
	10:00pm to 7:00am (Night-time)	40 dB LAeq
		70 dB LAmax

- E5. The noise levels in Condition E4 must be measured in accordance with the requirements of New Zealand Standard NZS 6801:2008 "Acoustics – Measurement of Environmental Sound" and assessed in accordance with the requirements of New Zealand Standard NZS 802:2008 "Acoustic – Environmental noise".



- E6. If MPDC receives a minimum of three noise complaints, which are verified by MPDC officers, the Consent Holder must, at the MPDC's request, undertake noise monitoring in accordance with the requirements of New Zealand Standard NZS 6802:2008 and provide the results of that monitoring to MPDC.
- E7. In the event that noise monitoring, completed under Condition E6, demonstrates that the noise standards set out in Conditions E4 and E5 have not been complied with, the Consent Holder shall:
- Take all necessary steps to reduce noise and provide details of those steps to the MPDC Monitoring Officer.
 - Carry out further monitoring in accordance with the requirements of Condition E6.

The requirements of subclauses (a) and (b) shall be repeated as required until such time that compliance with the noise standards set out in Conditions E4 and E5 is achieved.

Hazardous Substances and Site Safety Management Plan

- E8. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit an updated HSSSMP to MPDC for certification. The HSSSMP must be in general accordance with the Hazardous Substances Management Plan dated 19 June 2026 identified in Condition A1.
- E9. The purpose of the HSSSMP is to set out the procedures for management of all hazardous substances during the operation of the solar farm. The HSSSMP must include, but not be limited to, the following:
- Inventory of hazardous substances to be used or stored on-site;
 - Storage locations and segregation requirements;
 - Risk management and control measures to be employed;
 - Spill procedures;
 - Waste management and disposal requirements;
 - Roles, responsibilities and training relating to hazardous substances; and
 - Emergency response procedures, including access routes for the fire service within the Site and to water tanks;
 - The number, location and size of water tanks in compliance with relevant New Zealand Building Code standards and/or determined by a Site Specific Fire Risk Assessment and Protection Philosophy;
 - A Battery Safety Storage Management Plan containing safe storage and emergency response procedures for BESS (provided that this plan will not be required if BESS are not included in the Project):
 - BESS facility location and layout in accordance with the Indicative Site Layout Plan HIN-01.00 dated 28/5/2026 referred to in Condition A1;
 - Automatic fire detection systems;
 - Monitoring systems;



- iv. Operational procedures for mitigation of thermal runaway; and
- v. Fire suppression systems.

Restoration and Landscape Management Plan

- E10. Prior to submission of the Restoration and Landscape Management Plan (RLMP) to MPDC for certification, the Consent Holder must invite WRC to provide comment on the content of the RLMP and provide no less than 20 wds for the receipt of those comments.
- E11. The Consent Holder must invite representatives of Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust, Ngāti Hinerangi and Raukawa Charitable Trust to collaborate in the preparation of the RLMP for the purposes of ensuring cultural values / materials are appropriately incorporated.
- E12. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a RLMP to MPDC for certification. The RLMP must be in general accordance with the Draft Restoration and Planting Plan dated 16 July 2026 identified in Condition A1. At the time of submission of the RLMP for certification, the Consent Holder must also provide to MPDC:
- a. Any comments provided by WRC in accordance with Condition E10 with an explanation of how comments have been addressed.
 - b. Any comments provided by Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust, Ngāti Hinerangi and Raukawa Charitable Trust in accordance with Condition E11 with an explanation of how comments have been addressed.
- E13. The purpose of the RLMP is to restore and/or enhance wetland and stream ecosystems within the Site, including improving water quality through planting and rehabilitating identified areas and to enhance connectivity to existing natural ecosystems and to reflect cultural values. The RLMP must include (but not be limited to):
- a. Identification of planting areas in accordance with the approved plans identified in Condition A1. For the avoidance of doubt, the riparian margin of the Mangawhero Stream and unnamed stream must be planted on both sides to a minimum depth of 5m anywhere it falls within the Site.
 - b. For each planting zone, details of species, spacing, [planted heights](#), [mature heights](#) and number of specimens.
 - c. Details of the maximum height of proposed boundary planting, which shall be in accordance with the plan entitled Proposed Hinuera Solar Farm – Riparian/Wetland Planting North, Boundary Planting South and Plant Schedule, contained in Attachment 2 (sheets 05-07) to the Landscape Effects Assessment prepared by Wayfinder dated 5 August 2026.
 - d. Plant species mix which should comprise low flammability plants (as listed on the FENZ website) to the extent practicable and include minimal use of higher flammable plants.
 - e. Details of site preparation and plant establishment.



- f. The requirement for restoration planting to commence in the first planting season following the ~~commencement~~^{completion} of construction, in accordance with Condition B13.
- g. Requirements for fencing of restoration areas.
- h. Requirements for ongoing maintenance and monitoring including the replacement of plants that fail to establish in the first five years of planting.
- i. A requirement for eco-sourcing of plants where reasonably practicable.
- j. The incorporation of cultural materials for the purposes of enhancing whakapapa. This may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the installation of contemporary Māori cultural pou in a suitable location.

Commented [EB8]: As discussed at MPDC meeting

- E14. Should mitigation planting be removed and / or die or fail during the operational lifespan of the solar farm, such that it no longer provides effective screening, it shall be replaced with a similar species within the next planting season. The ongoing maintenance and monitoring set out in the certified RLMP must continue to be implemented for the duration of the resource consent as necessary to achieve the objectives of the RLMP.
- E15. The Consent Holder must provide for fencing around the planting areas identified in the certified RLMP for the purposes of achieving total stock exclusion.

Weed and Animal Pest Control Management Plan

- E16. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a final Weed and Animal Pest Control Management Plan (WAPCMP) to MPDC for certification. The final WAPCMP must be in general accordance with the draft WAPCMP within the Draft Restoration and Planting Plan referred to in Condition A1.
- E17. The purpose of the WAPCMP is to reduce, contain, or eliminate pest plants and animals within the fenced area of the solar farm and biodiversity planting areas. The WAPCMP must include (but not be limited to):
 - a. Weed control requirements, including methods and timing.
 - b. Animal pest control requirements, including methods and timing.
- E18. Weed and animal pest control must be implemented in accordance with the guidelines and timeframes set out in the certified WAPCMP. The ongoing maintenance and monitoring set out in the certified WAPCMP must continue to be implemented for the duration of the resource consent as necessary to achieve the objectives of the WAPCMP.

Cleaning

- E19. Solar farm infrastructure within the Site (including but not limited to: panels; inverters; transformers and switchgear) must only be cleaned with water or a biodegradable cleaner.



Decommissioning / Repowering Plan

E20. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a Decommissioning or Re-powering Plan (DORP) to MPDC for certification. The purpose of the DORP is to:

- a. Advise MPDC as to whether the Consent Holder intends to decommission or re-power the solar farm and to set out procedures to ensure that decommissioning or re-powering is undertaken in such a manner as to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on the environment, including the local community; and
- b. If re-powering is proposed, to enable early and meaningful liaison between the Consent Holder and MPDC in relation to efficiency or environmental improvements that could be made.

Advice Note:

The intent of this condition is for MPDC to undertake the technical certification of the plan. However, MPDC may seek feedback from WRC as part of this process.

Condition A2 also only allows for a consent period of 35 years. If re-powering is undertaken, the onus is on the eConsent hHolder to apply for the relevant consents from the relevant authorities (MPDC, WRC or any successor authority) required at the time.

E21. If decommissioning is proposed, the DORP must, as a minimum, detail:

- a. Works required to ensure that the end-state of the Site following removal of solar infrastructure is safe and suitable for a variety of subsequent land uses, specifically agricultural use.
- b. Methods for removing the above- and below-ground infrastructure and the number and type of components that will be recycled or disposed of. The methods described must:
 - i. Seek to maximise reuse and recycling of existing plant.
 - ii. For those parts that cannot be reused or recycled, specify the methods by which the redundant components will be disposed of in an environmentally responsible way in accordance with industry best practice.
 - iii. Comply with any applicable legislative or regulatory requirements.
 - iv. Employ best practice methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on the environment.

E22. If decommissioning is proposed, the Consent Holder must:

- a. Notify MPDC at least 20 days before the decommissioning of the solar farm commences;
- b. Surrender its land use consents at the conclusion of decommissioning; and
- c. Obtain from MPDC written confirmation that the completed decommissioning has achieved the purpose and satisfied the requirements of Conditions E20 and E21.

E23. If re-powering is proposed, the DORP must, as a minimum, describe:



- a. Any changes to the operation or layout of the Site;
- b. Works required to re-power the solar farm, including any requirement for additional resource consents;
- c. Methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on the natural environment or the local community during re-powering.

~~E3.E24.~~ No works may commence on re-powering the site until evidence is supplied by the Consent Holder that all necessary resource consents have been obtained.



Part F – WRC Certificate .01 Land use (Land Disturbance and Cleanfill Deposition)

These conditions relate to RC2 – Waikato Regional Council

Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

- F1. In accordance with the timeframe set out in Table 5, the Consent Holder must submit a final ESCP to WRC for certification. The objective of the ESCP must be to identify and implement measures necessary to minimise soil erosion and sediment discharge from the activities authorised by this consent for compliance with all relevant consent conditions.
- F2. The ESCP must be prepared in general accordance with the draft ESCP referred to in Condition A1 and the specific principles and practices which are appropriate for the activity authorised by this consent and contained within the Waikato Regional Council document titled “*Erosion and Sediment Control – Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities*” (Technical Report No. 2009/02 – dated January 2009, including 2014 factsheets) and must include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:
- a. Details of all principles, procedures and practices that will be implemented to undertake erosion and sediment control to achieve the sediment discharge standards in Conditions F20 and F22 of this consent;
 - b. The design criteria and dimensions of all key erosion and sediment control structures, including for dewatering discharges;
 - c. A site plan of a suitable scale to identify;
 - i. The locations of waterways;
 - ii. The extent of soil disturbance and vegetation removal;
 - iii. Any “no go” and/or buffer areas to be maintained undisturbed adjacent to watercourses;
 - iv. Areas of cut and fill;
 - v. Locations of topsoil stockpiles;
 - vi. All key erosion and sediment control structures;
 - vii. The boundaries and area of catchments contributing to all stormwater impoundment structures;
 - viii. The locations of all specific points of discharge to the environment; and
 - ix. Any other relevant site information.
 - d. Construction timetable for the erosion and sediment control works and the bulk earthworks proposed;
 - e. Timetable and nature of progressive site rehabilitation and re-vegetation proposed;
 - f. Maintenance, monitoring and reporting procedures;



- g. Rainfall response and contingency measures including procedures to minimise adverse effects in the event of extreme rainfall events and/or the failure of any key erosion and sediment control structures;
- h. Measures to ensure compliance with the dewatering requirements in Conditions G3-G6 of [Certificate 02];
- i. Measures to ensure compliance with the culvert construction requirements in Conditions H1-H4 of [Certificate 03] and Conditions I2-I6 of [Certificate 04];
- j. Procedures for the accidental discovery of contaminated soils and acid sulfate soils.
- k. Procedures and timing for review and/or amendment to the ESCP; and
- l. Identification and contact details of personnel responsible for the operation and maintenance of all key erosion and sediment control structures.

Advice Note:

The “Erosion and Sediment Control – Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities” can be found on the Waikato Regional Council website: www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/earthworks. Note these guidelines were amended with the inclusion of a series of factsheets in 2014.

- F3. Prior to the commencement of the earthworks and fill placement authorised by this consent, all required erosion and sediment control measures must be constructed and operational in accordance with the certified ESCP, and must be maintained for the duration of the earthworks and fill placement activities.

Dust

- F4. There must be no discharge of airborne particulate matter as a result of the activities authorised by this resource consent that causes an objectionable or offensive effect beyond the boundary of the Site.

Advice Note:

Chapter 6.4 of the Waikato Regional Plan provides guidance on the assessment of the effect of odour and dust emissions.

For the purpose of condition F4 of this resource consent, the Waikato Regional Council will consider an effect that is objectionable or offensive to have occurred if any appropriately experienced officer of the Waikato Regional Council deems it so after having regard to:

- a) *The frequency, intensity, duration, amount, effect and location of the suspended or particulate matter; and/or*
- b) *Receipt of complaints from neighbours or the public; or*
- c) *Relevant written advice or a report from an Environmental Health Officer of a territorial authority or health authority.*

Seasonal Restrictions and Winter Works

- F5. Earthworks within a High Risk Erosion Area(s) must not be carried out during the winter period (being 1st May to 30th September inclusive) in any year that this consent is



current, apart from necessary maintenance works, unless approved in writing by the WRC.

- F6. The Consent Holder must ensure that land within a High Risk Erosion Area(s) is appropriately stabilised by 30 April of each year unless otherwise approved in writing by the WRC. Stabilisation must be undertaken by providing adequate measures (vegetative and/or structural and including, metalling, hydroseeding, revegetating and mulching) that will minimise erosion of exposed soil to the extent practicable.
- F7. Requests to undertake works within a High Risk Erosion Area(s) during the period 1st May to 30th September inclusive must be submitted in writing to the WRC at least 20 wd prior to the commencement of activities in a High Risk Erosion Area(s) (if works are programmed to start before 1 October) and by 1st April each year thereafter, and must be in the form of amendments to the certified ESCP.

Advice Note:

In considering a request for the continuation of winter earthworks, WRC will consider the following:

- *the nature of the site and the winter soil disturbance works proposed;*
- *the quality of the existing/proposed erosion and sediment controls;*
- *the compliance history of the site/operator;*
- *seasonal/local soil and weather conditions;*
- *the monitoring/sampling proposed to demonstrate compliance with the relevant discharge standards during the winter works period;*
- *sensitivity of the receiving environment; and*
- *any other relevant factor.*

Monitoring and Maintenance

- F8. The Consent Holder must ensure that all erosion and sediment control structures are inspected on a weekly basis, and within 24 hours after any rainfall event that is likely to impair the function or performance of the controls.
- F9. The Consent Holder must carry out monitoring and maintenance of all erosion and sediment controls in accordance with the conditions of this consent and the WRC document titled “*Erosion and Sediment Control – Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities*” (Technical Report No. 2009/02 – dated January 2009), and must maintain records detailing:
- a. The date, time and results of the monitoring undertaken; and
 - b. The erosion and sediment controls that required maintenance; and
 - c. The date and time when the maintenance was completed.

These records must be provided to WRC at all reasonable times and within 72 hours of a written request to do so.



Construction

- F10. All earthmoving machinery, pumps, generators and ancillary equipment must be operated in a manner which ensures spillages of fuel, oil and similar contaminants are prevented, particularly during refuelling and machinery servicing and maintenance. Refuelling and lubrication activities must be carried out away from any water body, ephemeral water body, or overland flow path, such that any spillage can be contained so that it does not enter surface water.
- F11. The Consent Holder must ensure that all machinery used in the exercising of this consent is cleaned prior to being transported to/from the Site to ensure that all seed and/or plant matter has been removed and documented in accordance with the National Pest Control Agencies A series, best practice (Code A16) guidelines, available to download from *Keep it clean - machinery cleaning guidelines and handbook* | Waikato Regional Council
- F12. There must be no vehicles or earthmoving machinery in the bed of any flowing water body at any time.
- F13. All disturbed or cut vegetation, soil or debris must be deposited or placed in a position where it will not enter any water body or cause diversion, damming or erosion of any waterway.
- F14. The works authorised by this consent must be undertaken in such a manner so as to avoid flooding effects on adjacent land.

Site Restoration

- F15. The removal of any erosion and sediment control measures from any area where soil has been disturbed as a result of the exercise of this consent must only occur after consultation and written approval has been obtained from WRC acting in a technical certification capacity. In this respect, the main issues that will be considered by the WRC include:
- The quality of the soil stabilisation and/or covering vegetation;
 - The quality of the water discharged from the rehabilitated land; and
 - The quality of the receiving water.
- Re-vegetation and/or stabilisation of all disturbed areas is to be completed in accordance with the measures detailed in the document titled *"Erosion and Sediment Control – Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities"* (Technical Report No. 2009/02 – dated January 2009).
- F16. The Consent Holder must ensure those areas of the Site where earthworks have been completed are stabilised against erosion as soon as practically possible and within a period not exceeding 14 days after completion of any works authorised by this consent. Stabilisation must be undertaken by providing adequate measures (vegetative and/or structural) that will minimise sediment runoff and erosion. The Consent Holder must monitor and maintain the Site until vegetation is established to such an extent that as far as practicable it prevents erosion and prevents sediment from entering any water body.



Cleanfill

- F17. All cleanfill deposition authorised by this consent must be limited to natural materials such as clay, soil and rock and other inert materials such as concrete and brick, or mixtures of any of the above. Cleanfill excludes for example, but may not be limited to:
- a. Material that has combustible, putrescible or degradable components;
 - b. Materials likely to create leachate by means of biological or chemical breakdown;
 - c. Any products or materials derived from hazardous waste treatment, hazardous waste stabilisation or hazardous waste disposal practices;
 - d. Materials such as medical and veterinary waste, asbestos or radioactive substances that may present a risk to human health;
 - e. Soils or other materials contaminated with hazardous substances or pathogens;
 - f. Liquid waste;
 - g. Hazardous substances.
- F18. Any fill material must be of an appropriate size and placed so that it does not result in land instability.
- F19. The Consent Holder must maintain a site log book to identify all loads entering the Site, recording the number of each trucks and estimated volume, and the source and type of material deposited. This information must be provided to the WRC within 5 wds of any written request to do so.

Discharges

- F20. Discharges from construction must not cause a conspicuous change in water colour or clarity, measured visually, in the Mangawhero Stream, after reasonable mixing which for the purpose of this consent is taken to be at a point 30 metres downstream of any point of discharge to the water body.
- F21. All earthworks must be managed to minimise any discharge of soil, silt, sediment or sediment-laden water directly to stormwater drainage systems, watercourses or receiving waters. In the event that direct discharge occurs, works must cease immediately and the discharge must be mitigated and/or rectified to the satisfaction of WRC.
- F22. The discharge of suspended solids associated with the activities authorised by this consent must not result in the concentration of suspended solids in the Mangawhero Stream exceeding 100 grams per cubic metre, except where the concentration of suspended solids in the Mangawhero Stream, upstream of the activity, already exceeds 100 grams per cubic metre then there must be no more than a 10 percent increase in the concentration of suspended solids in the Mangawhero Stream as a result of activities authorised by this consent.
- F23. In the event of a discharge, to determine compliance with Condition F22, the WRC may instruct the Consent Holder to collect a minimum of three water samples. Samples must be taken upstream and downstream of the point of any discharge.
- F24. Within one wd of taking any samples required by Condition F23, the Consent Holder must submit those samples to an appropriate facility for analysis of suspended solids.



- F25. The Consent Holder must provide the results of any sampling required by Condition F24 to WRC within five wd of receiving the results.
- F26. Should the sampling required by Condition F23 show that the standards in Condition F22 are not being met, contingency measures and remedial actions must be undertaken in accordance with the certified ESCP.

Wetland restoration

- F27. At least 10 wds before commencing wetland restoration, the Consent Holder must provide WRC with the following information:
- a. A description of the activity to be undertaken; and
 - b. A description of, and map showing, where the activity will be undertaken; and
 - c. A statement of when the activity will start and when it is expected to end; and
 - d. A description of the extent of the activity; and
 - e. Their contact details.
- F28. Except where it is necessary for the machinery to enter the natural inland wetland to achieve the purpose of the works, the Consent Holder must undertake wetland restoration works from the edge of the wetland without machinery entering the wetland. If it is necessary to enter the wetland, swamp mats must be employed and machinery must be restricted to a small excavator of 8-13 tonnes and a small truck (4 wheel or 6 wheel).
- F29. Machinery, vehicles, and equipment used for the activity must be cleaned before entering any natural inland wetland for wetland restoration.
- F30. The mixing of construction materials, and the refuelling and maintenance of vehicles, machinery, and equipment, must be done outside a 10 metre setback from any natural inland wetland.



Part G – WRC Certificate .02 Water Permit (Temporary diversion, take and discharge for dewatering)

These conditions relate to RC3 – Waikato Regional Council

Groundwater Diversion

- G1. Groundwater must only be diverted during excavation and trenching works.

Surface Water Take Limits

- G2. The Consent Holder is required to advise WRC in writing of the date the works will be undertaken at least 10 wds prior to the commencement of works that may result in dewatering.
- G3. Surface water must only be taken from pooled groundwater (daylighting as surface water) in trenches and excavations for construction dewatering purposes associated with the earthworks.
- G4. The combined daily water take volume authorised by this consent must not exceed 149 cubic metres as measured on a monthly rolled average.
- G5. The rate of take must be less than five litres per second.
- G6. Up to 40 cubic metres of water per day may be retained for dust control and other construction activities.

Machinery

- G7. The ongoing use and operation of machinery for construction dewatering, including fuels and hazardous substances, must comply with Conditions F10-F12.

Discharge

- G8. Except as provided for by Condition G6, all other water taken pursuant to this resource consent must either be synchronously discharged or be temporarily contained and discharged in a controlled manner to grassed / vegetated areas or artificial watercourses within 100 metres of the take location and within the Site. The rate and manner must avoid causing scour and erosion.
- G9. The dewatering discharge must be appropriately managed in accordance with the certified ESCP.
- G10. At no time will the dewatering discharge to the environment have a total petroleum hydrocarbon sheen and/or odour.
- G11. At no point during the duration of the consent will the discharge cause an objectionable odour beyond the boundary of the Site.
- G12. There must be no overland flow beyond the boundary of the Site or significant ponding of water from any part of the system or disposal area at any time.
- G13. If the discharge requirements specified in Conditions G8-G12 are not met, the discharge must cease immediately, and WRC must be notified. The discharge may



only recommence once amendments have been made to the treatment process such that the discharge requirements specified in this consent are met, and with agreement from WRC.



Part H – WRC Certificate .03 Water Permit (Temporary damming and diversion for culvert installation)

These conditions relate to RC4 – Waikato Regional Council

Advice note: This consent applies to culvert installation within the Mangawhero Stream and the unnamed stream.

Dam Installation

- H1. The Consent Holder must install any temporary dams during a period of at least 3 days' forecast dry weather and in low hydrological flow conditions.
- H2. During the installation and removal of temporary dams authorised by this consent, the Consent Holder must seek to keep the area of in-stream disturbance to a practicable minimum. Installation and removal must be undertaken without the requirement for machinery to enter the water body and in a manner that minimises any increase in sediment levels.
- H3. Fish capture and relocation must be undertaken by a SQEP within any temporarily dammed areas.
- H4. Each temporary dam must be in place for no longer than six weeks.

Diversions – Hydrology and Flow Management

- H5. During use of any temporary dam/s, the Consent Holder must maintain residual flows in the stream reach downstream of the isolated work area that are equivalent in quality and rate to those immediately upstream of the dam.
- H6. All water taken must be discharged downstream of the works area without delay, and no water shall be taken or used for any other purpose.
- H7. The activities authorised by this consent must be undertaken in such a manner to avoid creating flooding effects on adjacent land.
- H8. Any pumps used during activities authorised by this consent must be screened with a mesh aperture size not exceeding 3 millimetres in diameter. If requested by the WRC in writing, the Consent Holder must provide evidence on this aperture size.

Dam maintenance

- H9. The dams must be regularly maintained to ensure that, at all times, they are structurally sound and are able to perform satisfactorily.
- H10. The dams must be inspected after extreme weather events. In the event of any damage to a dam that results in a significant risk to safety or functioning of the dam, then works to repair that damage must be completed as soon as practicable.

Advice note:

For the purposes of this condition an extreme weather event will be considered to be >100 mm rainfall in 24 hours.



H11. The Consent Holder must maintain the temporary dams and waterway channel in the immediate vicinity of the dam, clear of debris and other obstructions at all times.

Completion

H12. On completion of culvert installation / upgrade, the Consent Holder must ensure that the dam structures (including any additional materials used) are removed from the water body as soon as practicable and the bed must be reinstated to its original state. Re-vegetation and/or stabilisation of all disturbed areas is to be completed in accordance with the measures detailed in the document titled *“Erosion and Sediment Control – Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities” (WRC Technical Report No. 2009/02 – dated January 2009)* or the most recent update of that document.



Part I – WRC Certificate .04 Land use (Structures in streambed)

Advice note: *This consent applies to culverts within the Mangawhero Stream and the unnamed stream.*

These conditions relate to RC5 – Waikato Regional Council

Construction and Timing of Works

11. All earthworks carried out during the construction and completion of the culverts shall be undertaken in accordance with [Certificate 01]. This includes all methodology, certification or changes to the ESCP to enable installation of the culverts and associated earthworks within a High Risk Erosion Area.
12. The works within the stream bed associated with each culvert installation must occur within a window of works of 20 wds and must only be undertaken during periods of lower hydrological flow.
13. The Consent Holder must ensure that any cement or similar contaminant used in the culvert embedment is not exposed to flowing water for at least 48 hours and the area is cleaned of sediment/contaminants including dust before the stream flow is reinstated.
14. The Consent Holder is responsible for the design, structural integrity, and maintenance of the culvert structures and for any erosion control works that become necessary to preserve the integrity and stability of the upstream and downstream stream channel and/or to control erosion as a result of the exercise of this resource consent.
15. The waterway channel in the immediate vicinity of the culverts must be kept clear of debris and other obstructions.
16. All disturbed or cut vegetation, soil or debris must be deposited or placed in a position where it will not enter any water body or cause diversion, damming or erosion of any waterway.

Culvert Design

17. The Consent Holder must ensure that any culverts in a stream are constructed to provide for the same passage of fish upstream and downstream as would exist without the culvert, including:
 - a. the mean cross-sectional water velocity in the culvert must be no greater than that in all immediately adjoining river reaches; and
 - b. the culvert's width where it intersects with the bed of the river or connected area (s) and the width of the bed at that location (w), both measured in metres, must compare as follows:
 - (i) where $w \leq 3$, $s \geq 1.3 \times w$;
 - (ii) where $w > 3$, $s \geq (1.2 \times w) + 0.6$; and



- c. the culvert must be open-bottomed or its invert must be placed so that at least 25% of the culvert's diameter is below the level of the bed; and
- d. the bed substrate must be present over the full length of the culvert and stable at the flow rate at or below which the water flows for 80% of the time; and
- e. the culvert must provide for continuity of geomorphic processes (such as the movement of sediment and debris).

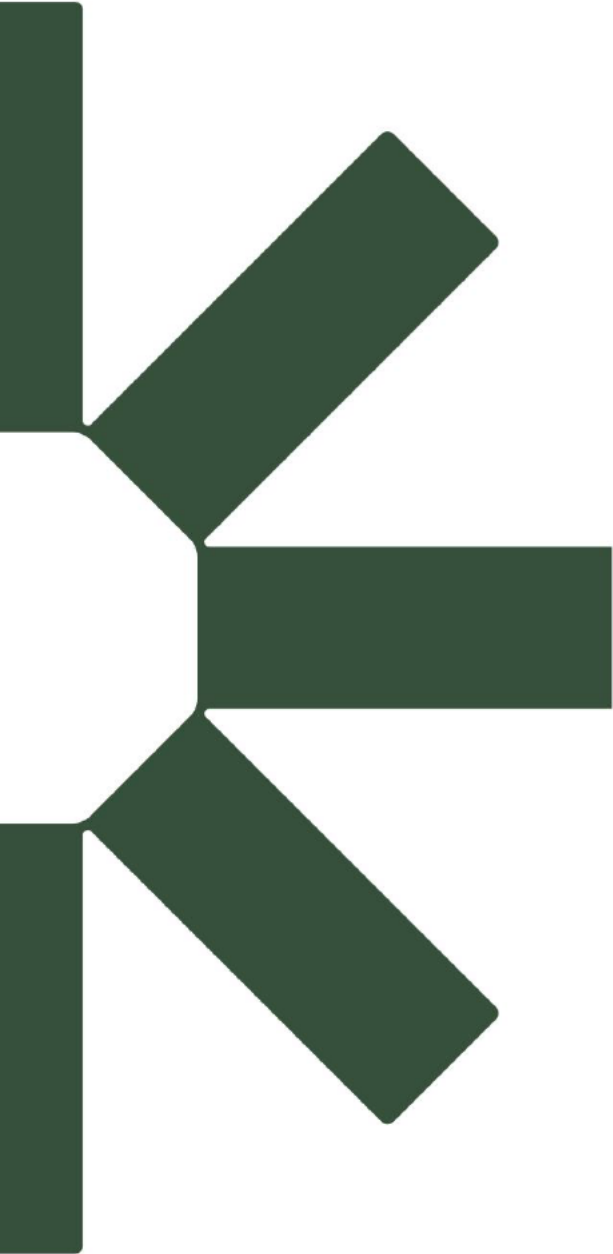
National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Regulations 2020

- 18. The information specified in National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F) Regulation 62 – information about structures and passage of fish, must be collected and provided to WRC, together with the time and date of its collection, within 20 wds after culvert installation/upgrade in any stream is finished. The information is:
 - a. the type of structure:
 - b. the geographical co-ordinates of the structure:
 - c. the flow of the river or connected area (whether none, low, normal, or high):
 - d. whether the water is tidal at the structure's location:
 - e. at the structure's location,—
 - i. the width of the river or connected area at the water's surface; and
 - ii. the width of the bed of the river or connected area:
 - f. whether there are improvements to the structure to mitigate any effects the structure may have on the passage of fish:
 - g. whether the structure protects particular species, or prevents access by particular species to protect other species:
 - h. the likelihood that the structure will impede the passage of fish:
 - i. visual evidence (for example, photographs) that shows both ends of the structure, viewed upstream and downstream.
- 19. The information specified in NES-F Regulation 63 – culvert activities – information about culverts, must be collected and provided to WRC, together with the time and date of its collection, within 20 wds after culvert installation/upgrade in any stream is finished. The information is:
 - a. the culvert's asset identification number, if known:
 - b. whether the culvert's ownership is—
 - i. held by the Crown (for example, the Department of Conservation), a regional council, a territorial authority, the New Zealand Transport Agency, or KiwiRail Holdings Limited; or
 - ii. held publicly by another person or organisation; or
 - iii. held privately; or

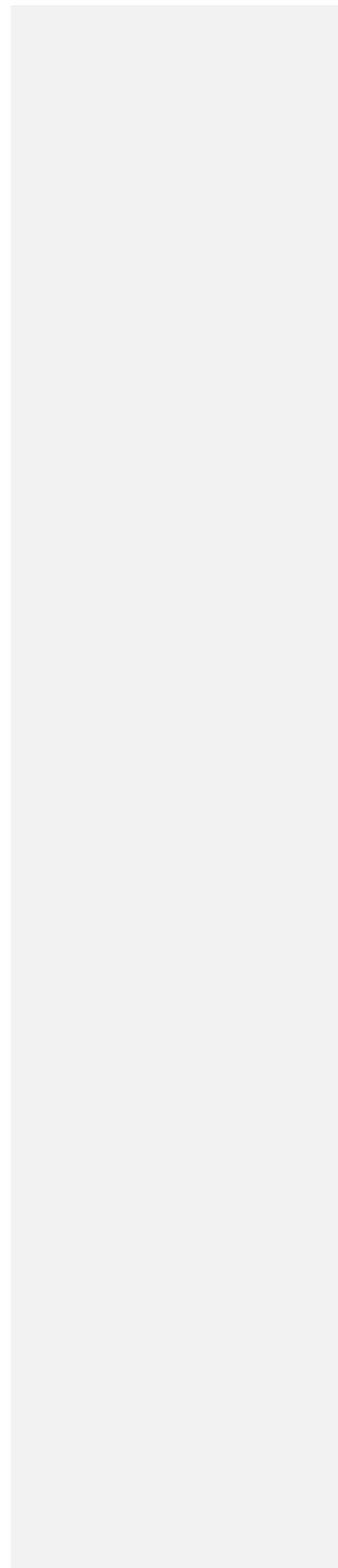


- iv. unknown:
 - c. the number of barrels that make up the culvert:
 - d. the culvert's shape:
 - e. the culvert's length:
 - f. the culvert's diameter or its width and height:
 - g. the height of the drop (if any) from the culvert's outlet:
 - h. the length of the undercut or erosion (if any) from the culvert's outlet:
 - i. the material from which the culvert is made:
 - j. the mean depth of the water through the culvert:
 - k. the mean water velocity in the culvert:
 - l. whether there are low-velocity zones downstream of the culvert:
 - m. the type of bed substrate that is in most of the culvert:
 - n. whether there are any remediation features (for example, baffles or spat rope) in the culvert:
 - o. whether the culvert has wetted margins:
 - p. the slope of the culvert:
 - q. the alignment of the culvert:
 - r. the numbers of each other type of structure to which this subpart applies, or of wingwalls or screens, on the culvert:
 - s. if there is any apron or ramp on the culvert, the information required by Regulation 68 of the NES-F for each of them.





Making Sustainability Happen



Attachment C:

Cultural Values Assessment

Attachment D:

Landscape Response - Wayfinder

MEMO

To: Christina Walker, Harmony Energy

From: Ben Ormsby & Shannon Bray, Wayfinder Landscape Planning and Strategy

Project: Hinuera Solar Farm

Subject: RFI in relation to your application under the FTAA 2024 / FTAA-2607-1268

Date: 5 October 2026

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 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.

The reflected light assessment models effects on existing sensitive receivers and representative locations on State Highways and the Railway. It would not be possible to accurately predict where any additional permitted dwellings may be constructed, however, the 57 model locations are considered to be adequately representative of any future dwellings.

No existing vegetation has been included in the model, and the assessment does not rely on proposed landscaping. This second point is explicitly noted in the results section of the report.

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.

We do not consider that the Landscape Effects Assessment places *significant* reliance on such a proposition. Rather, it has assessed the effects of the proposal on the Hinuera rural landscape and concluded:

- ▶ the site is typical dairy farmland and not considered distinctive or highly sensitive in the local landscape context;
- ▶ landform legibility, waterways, and the visual distinction between the plains and Kaimai Mamaku Ranges are retained;
- ▶ continued sheep grazing beneath panels means productive land use remains, although at lower intensity;
- ▶ rural character is largely maintained and the solar farm is considered consistent with the productive rural landscape;



- ▶ indigenous riparian and screening planting is expected to provide ecological, amenity, and natural character benefits;
- ▶ Future development opportunities are unlikely to be constrained; the activity is considered largely reversible at the end of its life;
- ▶ effects on rural character assessed as **low** and for the reasons stated in the Landscape Effects Assessment, overall landscape effects assessed as **low**.

Below we provide some additional assessment of the relationship between the proposal and the rural character of the Hinuera landscape, and the extent to which the resulting changes affect rural character, experience and values, and whether those effects remain within the landscape's capacity to absorb and accommodate change.

The principal landscape effect arises from the introduction of a solar generation activity into a landscape dominated by agricultural activity. This will alter the visual pattern, texture and land use expression of the site, particularly in views from State Highways 27 and 29, Gore Road and the adjacent rail corridor. The site will no longer be perceived solely as highly-modified pastoral farmland and will instead express a combination of agricultural and solar-generation attributes.

The proposal will introduce built structures and a character that differ in scale and arrangement from agricultural structures and activity. However, the site will remain rural in nature. Solar arrays, fencing, power conversion units, access roads and associated electricity infrastructure introduce a different physical and perceptual character, but they share similarities with other forms of rural infrastructure and activity. This limits their overall effect on the rural character values of the site.

Although the proposal introduces a different visual pattern from the existing intensive agricultural activity, the degree of physical modification is not inherently greater than many other forms of rural land use and rural infrastructure commonly encountered across the Hauraki Plains and beyond. Some people may perceive the proposal as introducing an industrial or utility influence into the rural environment. However, the presence of such characteristics does not in itself indicate incompatibility with the receiving environment. The extent to which those characteristics are expressed in the landscape is relatively small in scale and the resulting change can be accommodated within the existing rural landscape.

The proposal does not alter the fundamental characteristics that define the wider Hinuera landscape. The underlying pattern of open rural land, expansive paddocks, shelter planting, rural infrastructure and managed vegetation will remain evident. The surrounding landscape will continue to be characterised by extensive productive land, low-density settlement, transport infrastructure and open views across the alluvial plains toward the Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges. The proposal occupies a relatively small part of that wider landscape (153 ha in an extensive rural landscape of the Hauraki Plains) and does not alter the landform, drainage patterns, settlement structure or broader pattern of rural land use that underpin landscape character. Although views of the solar farm will be available from some locations, those views will be within a broader landscape context. The physical and perceptual influence of the proposal diminishes with distance and does not redefine the character of the wider landscape.

In our opinion, the capacity of the Hinuera landscape to absorb and accommodate the proposal arises from its large scale, highly modified productive character, existing association with regionally significant infrastructure, and the limited influence of the proposal on the defining landform, natural features and wider landscape patterns that underpin landscape character and values. While the proposal results in a noticeable local change in character, it does not, in our opinion, fundamentally redefine the Hinuera landscape or undermine the characteristics that contribute to its rural character.



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.

We do not agree that the Landscape Effects Assessment relies upon mitigation planting on neighbouring land. The assessment identifies that the unmitigated visual effects on 70A and 70B Gore Road will be high. It then identifies planting within those properties as the most practical means of avoiding, remedying or mitigating those effects, because planting within the solar farm site would not be effective from these particular viewpoints. If such planting is undertaken, the assessment concludes that the visual effects on these properties will reduce to low as the planting establishes.

The proposed condition provides for the Consent Holder to prepare and implement that planting in consultation and agreement with the landowner. We understand that the landowner has agreed to this approach. Suggesting a condition of this nature is not unusual where effective landscape mitigation is best located close to the affected dwelling and requires the agreement of the affected landowner.

From a landscape perspective, the condition provides a practical means of delivering the planting identified in the assessment and reducing the visual effects on these properties. The adequacy of any longer-term legal mechanism for retaining that planting is a matter outside our landscape expertise.