

Referral application form to use for the fast-track process

Under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

About this referral application

This referral application form has been [approved](#) by the Secretary for the Environment in accordance with the [fast-track approvals process](#) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). All referral applications under the Act must be submitted using this form.

We recommend you discuss your referral application and the information requirements with us before you lodge the referral application. Please contact the Fast-track support team on 0800 327 875 or email info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Please provide a general level of detail in your application; sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application.

You must use this form to apply for referral applications and complete all relevant fields, even where you provide supporting attachments that are more detailed. Include attachment or appendix numbers in the relevant fields and list the attachments in section 5 of this form.

If the required information and relevant supporting material is not provided, the application will be returned to you as incomplete.

If your application is determined to be complete, and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) considers that your project may be capable of satisfying the assessment criteria and does not appear to involve an ineligible activity, and you have paid all related fees, charges and/or levies, then we will provide it to the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister).

Unless the Minister decides to decline the application before doing so, the Minister will invite comments on the application from relevant local authorities, Ministers, [administering agencies](#), identified Māori groups, owners of Māori land in the project area and any other person the Minister decides is appropriate. The Minister may also request further information from you, the relevant local authorities, or relevant administering agencies before making a decision on the referral application.

If the Minister accepts your referral application, then you may lodge a substantive application with the EPA and the substantive application may be considered by a decision-making panel.

Application fees and Cost recovery

Under the [Fast-track Approvals \(Cost Recovery\) Regulations 2025](#) (the Regulations), applicants lodging a referral application are required to pay a fee (deposit) of \$12,000 (plus GST), and a levy of \$6,700 (plus GST) to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The fees are set in [Schedule 1 of the Regulations](#). These fees must be paid before lodgement of your referral application. If the required amount is not paid the application will be returned as incomplete.

Please note the final costs payable at the referral stage may exceed the referral application fee (deposit) paid. More information about cost recovery under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 is available from [Fast-track approvals cost recovery process](#).

Submitting your application

You will need to submit this form through our digital Fast-track portal. You will need to receive a link to register/access the portal.

If you need any help with the form, you can call or email us:

- 0800 327 875 (0800 FASTRK) (from within New Zealand)
- email: info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Ways you can send your completed form to us

By digital portal – you will need to receive a link to register/access: [Fast-track website](#)

By email – info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Your personal information

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is collecting your personal information for the purpose of administering your referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. We will only use the information for the purposes of contacting you in relation to this application.

MfE may provide your application, or details from your application to other agencies or local authorities for the purpose of administering your referral application. If your application is accepted as complete and progresses through the referral process, the Minister may consult with other agencies and groups on your application. This will require the Minister to share the details of your application with the EPA, the Panel Convener, and those groups.

We will store your personal information securely. You have the right to access the personal information we hold about you and to ask for it to be corrected if it is wrong. If you would

like to access your personal information, or have it corrected, please contact us at referrals@fasttrack.govt.nz

Official information

All information you provide with this application is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released in accordance with that Act.

Publishing your application

We intend to publish your referral application on the Fast-track Approvals website.

Any personal contact details in application documents will not be made publicly available. Please provide a copy of the application with all personal contact details redacted.

MfE may also redact certain information from publication in accordance with the Official Information Act 1992. If you think your application contains information which should be withheld, please clearly identify it and provide an explanation as to why it should be withheld.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Section 1: Applicant details

A person or persons may apply to use the fast-track process for a project. Where there is more than one person, the referral application must be lodged jointly by all of the persons who are proposed to be authorised persons for the project.

If the referral application is accepted and referred by the Minister, the person or persons who lodged the referral application will be specified as the person who is, or the persons who are, authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project.

1.1 Applicant(s) – repeat for all applicants

1.1.1 Organisation name: Meridian Energy Limited

1.1.2 NZBN (optional): 9429037696863

1.1.3 Contact name: Andrew Guerin

1.1.4 Phone: s 9(2)(a)

1.1.5 Email address: s 9(2)(a)

1.1.6 Postal address (if preferred method of contact):

Additional Applicants: Meridian Energy Limited

1.2 Agent acting on behalf of applicant (if applicable)

1.2.1 Organisation name: BOFFA MISKELL LIMITED

1.2.2 Contact name: Charles Horrell

1.2.3 Phone:

1.2.4 Email address:

1.2.5 Postal address (if preferred method of contact):

1.3 Finance – Agent acting on behalf of applicant (if applicable)

1.3.1 Organisation name: MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED

1.3.2 Contact name: Andrew Guerin

1.3.3 Phone: s 9(2)(a)

1.3.4 Email address: s 9(2)(a)

1.3.5 Postal address (if preferred method of contact): PO Box 10840 Wellington
New Zealand 6140

If you are making this application on behalf of the applicant, please attach evidence that you are authorised to make this application.

1.3.6 Please direct all correspondence relating to this application (including correspondence from MfE) to:

If selecting Applicant and there is more than 1 person who lodged the referral application, please identify 1 person to receive all correspondence on behalf of all applicants.

1.4.1 Compliance and enforcement history – repeat for all applicants

1.4.1 Have there been any compliance or enforcement actions taken against the applicant (or if the referral application is lodged by more than one person, any of those persons) under a specified Act definition for either ‘compliance’ or ‘enforcement’?

No

1.4.2 If you answered yes above, please provide a summary of the relevant legislation and provisions, and any compliance or enforcement actions, and

the outcome of those actions taken under the [specified Act](#) against the applicant or applicants, if the referral is being lodged jointly.

Section 2: Referral application summary

2.1 Project name

This is the name by which the project will be known publicly. For example - avoid using street addresses, place names, company names.

Waiinu Energy Project

2.2 Project description and location

2.2.1 Provide a description of the project and the activities it involves

The project description helps us with inviting comments from relevant parties on the application, and publishing information about the application.

The Waiinu Energy Park comprises an integrated renewable energy development including wind turbines, solar arrays, and a battery energy storage system (BESS), supported by electrical infrastructure, substations, internal roading, and associated facilities. Together, these components enable the generation, storage, and transmission of electricity to the national grid.

The wind farm includes up to 56 turbines (up to 250 m high), with associated foundations, crane pads, and met masts. The solar farm comprises approximately 510,000 panels over 350 ha, supported by power conversion units, underground cabling, and internal access tracks. A distributed BESS will store and supply electricity to support grid stability.

Supporting infrastructure includes a 37.5 km internal road network, substations, a 220 kV transmission line to connect to the national grid, operations and maintenance facilities, and security systems.

Construction will involve bulk earthworks, trenching, and temporary facilities, supported by transport logistics via Port Taranaki and local supply chains.

A more fulsome description is provided in Section 3.3 of the Referral Application Report.

2.2.2 Provide a description or map of the whole project area that identifies its boundaries in sufficient detail to enable consideration of the referral application.

For example, site address(es), certificate of title(s), shape files

The Waiinu Energy Park is located on farmland within the coastal plains of South Taranaki and northwestern Whanganui, near the township of Waitōtara. The structures within the Energy Park lie at least half a kilometre inland from the coastline and occupies undulating duneland terrain on the coastal side of the Marton–New Plymouth Railway Line. Much of the duneland has been heavily modified by historic earthworks for farming activities and plantation forestry. Inland of the railway, the land rises quickly, with State Highway 3 – located up to 2km further inland – elevated at around 120–140m above sea level, offering occasional views over the coastal plain.

A full site description is provided in Section 5 of the Referral Application Report, and a map is provided in Appendix 1 of that Report.

2.3 Ineligible activity

Your referral application must demonstrate that the project does not involve any ineligible activities as defined in [Section 5](#) of the Act. Please consider each ineligible activity below and where relevant, provide the requested details.

*When providing your response below, where possible, **provide details of any parties involved, the extent of their holding and the activity relevant to their area.***

Where a project involves an activity that may be the subject of a determination under sections [23](#) or [24](#), and you are intending to seek a Ministerial determination for that activity under either section, you must still complete this section in full. Determinations under, and information required in respect of, sections 23 and 24 are covered further under 2.5

Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24.

If your application relates to certain mining activities below the surface of the land and meets the other relevant criteria under [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act then an agreement under [section 5\(1\)\(a\), \(b\), \(j\) or \(k\)](#) may not be required. This should be identified under the relevant questions below, and you must provide the additional information required in respect of [section 5\(2\)](#) under 2.3 Ineligible activity.

2.3.1 Does the project include an activity that would occur on identified [Māori land](#) as defined in section 4 of the Act?

No

a. If yes, please address the following:

- i. identify the land involved and the owner(s) of the land.
- ii. Confirm that the activity on the land has been agreed with the owners of the land and provide evidence of the written agreement; or
 - A. advise whether it is proposed to seek a determination under [section 23](#) and provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below; or
 - B. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.2 Does the project involve an activity that would occur in a customary marine title area?

No

- a. Address the following:
 - i. Identify the relevant customary marine title area, who the customary marine title group is;
 - ii. Provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the customary marine title group and provide a copy of the same; **or**
 - A. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.3 Does the project involve an activity that would occur in a protected customary rights area?

No

- a. Address the following:
 - i. Identify the protected customary rights area, the group who holds these rights and the nature of the protected customary right(s)
 - ii. Explain your proposed activity and identify whether you consider that it would have a less than minor adverse effect on the exercise of the protected customary right(s), and briefly explain why; **or**
 - iii. Advise whether you consider that your proposed activity would have a more than minor effect on the exercise of the protected customary right(s), and if so, confirm that the activity has been agreed to in writing

by the protected customary rights group and provide a copy of that agreement.

- 2.3.4** Does the project involve an activity that would occur on: Māori customary land; OR land set apart as a Māori reservation as defined in section 4 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

The project does not involve an activity that on Māori customary land or land set apart as a Māori reservation as defined in section 4 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

- 2.3.5** Does the project involve an aquaculture activity or an activity that is incompatible with aquaculture activities that would occur within an aquaculture settlement area (under section 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004); or an area reserved under another Treaty settlement for the aquaculture activities of a particular group?

No

- 2.3.6** Provide details of the aquaculture activity or the activity that is incompatible with aquaculture and the location

- 2.3.7** Provide details of the relevant aquaculture settlement area or Treaty settlement legislation reserving space for aquaculture and include details of the impacted parties or particular group.

- 2.3.8** Provide details on whether or not the applicant is authorised to apply for a coastal permit within the aquaculture settlement area, or area reserved under another Treaty settlement for aquaculture activities, including a copy of any such authorisation.

- 2.3.9** Does the project include an activity that would require an access arrangement under [section 61](#) or [61B](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991?

No

- a. Provide the following information:
- i. what is the activity that would require the access arrangement; and
 - ii. does the project include an activity that would occur on Crown owned land or internal waters and land of the common marine and coastal area described in Schedule 4 of that Act and provide details of the same.

- iii. If so describe how the activity meets the criteria in [section 61\(1A\)\(a-e\)](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991; **or**
- iv. Confirm and provide evidence that the project would not occur in an area for which a permit cannot be granted under that Act:

2.3.10 Does the project include an activity that would be prevented under any of sections [165J](#), [165M](#), [165Q](#), [165ZC](#), or [165ZDB](#) (regarding the management of occupation in common marine and coastal area) of the Resource Management Act 1991?

No

2.3.11 Provide details about which section the project does not comply with and, if relevant, the provisions of the regional coastal plan that are applicable.

2.3.12 Does the project include an activity (other than an activity that would require an access arrangement under the [Crown Minerals Act 1991](#)) that would occur on land that is listed in [Schedule 4](#) of this Act?

No

a. Provide the following:

- i. identify the activity and which clause under Schedule 4 is applicable; and
- ii. confirm whether you are seeking that the Minister make a determination under [section 24](#), and if so, whether the determination sought relates to existing electricity infrastructure or new electricity lines and provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below.

2.3.13 Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a national reserve held under the [Reserves Act 1977](#) and requires approval under that Act?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. identify the activity and type of national reserve under the Reserves Act
- ii. identify what approval(s) would be required under the Reserves Act.
- iii. Confirm whether you are seeking that the Minister make a determination under [section 24](#) and if so whether the determination sought relates to existing electricity infrastructure or new electricity lines.? If so, provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below

2.3.14 Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 that is vested in someone other than the Crown or a local authority?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. identify the activity, the reserve type under the Reserves Act, and the person in whom it is vested.
- ii. provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the person in whom the reserve is vested and provide a copy of the same; or
- iii. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.15 Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 that is managed by someone other than the Department of Conservation or a local authority?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. identify the activity, the reserve type under the Reserves Act, and the person or body who manages the reserve.
- ii. Provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the person or body responsible for managing the reserve and provide a copy of the same; **or**
- iii. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below; **or**
- iv. advise whether you consider the activity falls within the scope of [section 5\(5\)](#) of the Act, and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.16 Does the project involve an activity that is:

a. a prohibited activity under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 or regulations made under that Act?

No

b. described in [section 15B](#) (Discharge of harmful substances from ships or offshore installations) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and is a prohibited activity under that Act or regulations made under it;

No

- c. prohibited by section 15C (Prohibitions in relation to radioactive waste or other radioactive matter and other waste in coastal marine area) of the Resource Management Act 1991

No

- 2.3.17** Does the project involve a decommissioning-related activity as described in section 38(3) of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012:

No

- 2.3.18** Does the project involve an activity undertaken for the purposes of an offshore renewable energy project?

No

2.4 Exemptions from requirement to provide agreement

2.4.1 Mining activities under section 5(2)

The agreement of the relevant groups referred to under 3.5 Persons affected is not required for certain mining activities under [section 5\(2\)](#). If you think this might apply to your application, answer the questions below.

- 2.4.1.2** Is your application for an activity that is prospecting, exploration, mining or mining operations of Crown-owned minerals undertaken below the surface of any land or area?

No

- 2.4.1.3** Provide details of the activity and identify the owner and occupier of the land and any relevant details concerning the land or area (such as whether it is identified Māori land)

- 2.4.1.4** Explain the extent, if any to which your activity may be likely to cause any damage to the surface of the land or any loss or damage to the owner or occupier of the land.

- 2.4.1.5** Explain the extent, if any to which your activity will be likely to have any prejudicial effect in respect of the use and enjoyment of the land by the owner or occupier of the land.

- 2.4.1.6** Explain the extent, if any to which your activity will be likely to have any prejudicial effect in respect of any possible future use of the surface of the land, and if no such effects are anticipated, please explain why.

2.4.2 Activities on land proposed to be the subject of a land exchange

The agreement of relevant groups referred to in (subsection 5(1)(a) of the Act) is not required if section 5(5) applies. If you consider this section may be relevant to your application, complete the below.

2.4.2.1 Is the reserve on which the activity is to occur proposed to be the subject of a land exchange?

N/A

2.4.2.2 Is the reserve a Crown-owned reserve?

2.4.2.3 Are the person or persons responsible for managing the reserve in place because of a Treaty settlement?

2.4.2.4 Provide any supporting details which may be relevant for your responses to the above questions.

2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24

Complete this section if you wish to seek a ministerial determination under section 23 or section 24 that your project is not an ineligible activity.

2.5.1 Determination in relation to linear infrastructure on Māori land under section 23

2.5.1.1 Is your application seeking a determination under [section 23](#) (linear infrastructure on certain identified Māori land)

No

Provide the following information:

2.5.1.2 Confirmation that the activity is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure (and identify which it is)

2.5.1.3 Confirmation that the above construction (or operation of) will be undertaken by a network utility operator that is a requiring authority, and that that same party is the applicant for the necessary approvals, providing details of the same.

2.5.1.4 Confirmation that the activity would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land (and identify that land)

2.5.1.5 Provide information on the rights and interests of Māori in that land

2.5.1.6 Provide an assessment of the effects of the activity on those Māori rights and interests and on the relevant land.

2.5.2 Determination in relation to existing electricity infrastructure under section 24(2)

2.5.2.1 Is your application seeking a Ministerial determination under [section 24\(2\)](#) (in relation to maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of existing electricity infrastructure on certain Schedule 4 land or in a national reserve)

No

Provide the following information:

2.5.2.2 Confirmation that the activity is the maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of existing electricity infrastructure.

2.5.2.3 Confirmation that the activity would occur on eligible land, as defined in section 24(3).

2.5.2.4 Advise whether the activity would materially increase the scale or adverse effects of the existing electricity infrastructure and provide an explanation of the same.

2.5.3 Determination in relation to new electricity lines under section 24(4)

2.5.3.1 Is your application seeking a determination under [section 24](#) (the construction and operation of new electricity lines on eligible land (as defined in [schedule 4](#) excluding land classified as a national park or listed in subsections 2, 4, 5(a), 7 or 8 of that schedule)?)

No

Provide the following information:

2.5.3.2 Is the activity the construction and operation of new electricity lines? (provide any necessary details)

Would the activity occur on eligible land (and identify which category of eligible land);

2.5.3.3 Provide the requested information for each alternative site considered for the construction and operation of the new electricity lines:

2.5.3.4 A description of the alternative site.

2.5.3.5 A statement of the anticipated and known financial cost of undertaking the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.6 A description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of undertaking the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.7 A description of the anticipated and known financial cost and practicality of available measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for the anticipated and known adverse effects of the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.8 A description of any issues (including financial cost) that would make it impractical to undertake the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.9 An assessment of whether it would be reasonable and practical to undertake the activity on the alternative site, considering the matters referred to above.

2.6 Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process

Here you must explain how the project meets the referral application criteria ([section 22](#)). Please consider and respond where relevant, to each question.

If the project is planned to proceed in stages, you must explain how each stage meets the referral application criteria.

If a part of the project is proposed as an alternative project, you must explain how each stage meets the referral application criteria,

- 2.6.1** The criteria for accepting a referral application is that the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits. Explain how this project satisfies the criteria:

The Project delivers significant national and regional benefits, as outlined in assessments provided in Appendices 3 and 4 of the Referral Application Report. It will generate approximately 1,760 GWh of renewable electricity annually—enough to power up to 253,000 households—representing a material contribution to New Zealand’s electricity supply. This supports decarbonisation, electrification of transport and industry, and progress toward net zero emissions by 2050.

The Project contributes to managing dry year risk, enhancing electricity market efficiency, and improving security of supply. By increasing domestic renewable generation, it reduces reliance on fossil fuels and exposure to international energy price volatility, supporting a more stable and resilient electricity system.

The Project aligns with national policy direction, including the National Infrastructure Plan (2026) and New Zealand’s emissions reduction framework, which identify the need for substantial new renewable generation and coordinated infrastructure investment. Its proximity to existing transmission infrastructure further supports efficient integration into the national grid.

The Project also delivers substantial economic benefits, including approximately \$1.5 billion in capital investment, creation of 300–350 full-time equivalent jobs at peak construction (and a wider construction workforce), and ongoing operational expenditure estimated at \$28 million per annum, supporting long-term regional economic activity and productivity.

A further fulsome description of the significant regional and national benefits is provided in Section 4.1.1 of the Referral Application Report.

2.6.2 Explain how referring the project to the fast-track approvals process:

2.6.2.1 Would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and

The Project spans four council jurisdictions, requiring multiple resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991. Standard consenting pathways (including individual council processes, Board of Inquiry, or direct referral to the Environment Court) would involve complex, multi-agency approvals, duplication, and potential timeframes of 2–4+ years, with associated cost and uncertainty.

The Fast-track Approvals process provides a more efficient and integrated “one stop shop” approach, enabling all consents and permits (including wildlife and archaeological approvals) to be considered together by a single expert panel within clear statutory timeframes, reducing complexity and improving certainty.

A fulsome description is provided in Section 4.2.1 of the Referral Application Report.

2.6.2.2 Is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process

The referral of the Project is not anticipated to materially affect the efficient operation of the Fast-track Approvals process. The Project is at an advanced stage of development, with a comprehensive suite of technical assessments either already completed or underway and soon to be completed. In addition, Meridian has undertaken, and continues to undertake, comprehensive engagement with Mana Whenua, the local community and stakeholders (as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Referral Application Report).

This level of readiness ensures that the Expert Panel would have a well-defined information base upon which to assess the application, reducing the likelihood of delays commonly associated with incomplete or under-developed proposals. In addition, when compared with other listed Projects and referred Projects, many of which are at earlier stages of planning or design development, this proposal is unlikely to create undue pressure on the processing system or delay the progression of other applications. The Project is well-placed to proceed efficiently through the Fast-track process, without imposing an undue burden on the system or compromising the integrity of decision-making on this or other projects.

2.6.2.3 Has the project been identified as a priority project in a central government, local government, or sector plan or strategy (for example, in a general policy statement or spatial strategy), or a central government infrastructure priority list?

For example – a sector plan that specifically identifies the project including details such as location.

Yes

a. Identify the plan, strategy or list (or any other relevant document).
National Infrastructure Plan (2026)

2.6.2.4 Will the project deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Yes

a. Explain how the project will deliver this.

The Project will deliver new large-scale renewable electricity generation and will make a material contribution to New Zealand's electricity supply (approximately 1,760 GWh per year), supporting security of supply, management of dry year risk, and the transition to a low-emissions energy system.

Further detail on how the project will deliver regionally and nationally significant infrastructure is provided in Section 4.1.1 and Appendices 3 and 4 of the Referral Application Report.

2.6.2.5 Will the project increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, or contribute to a well-functioning urban environment (within the meaning of policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020). If yes, explain how the project will achieve this.

2.6.2.6 Will the project deliver significant economic benefits, and if so, how?

The Project will deliver significant economic benefits at both a regional and national level. It represents an estimated \$1.5 billion capital investment, making it one of the largest renewable energy investments currently proposed in New Zealand. This will generate substantial economic activity during construction, including approximately 300–350 full-time equivalent jobs at peak, and a wider construction workforce exceeding 3,000 individuals.

During operation, the Project will support ongoing regional economic activity through estimated annual operational expenditure of approximately \$28 million, providing sustained employment and investment over the life of the Project.

At a national level, the Project will contribute to improved electricity market efficiency and price stability by increasing generation capacity, helping to moderate long-term electricity costs. It will also reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, improving energy security and reducing exposure to global price volatility.

A more fulsome description of the economic benefits is provided in Section 4.1.1 and Appendix 4 of the Referral Application Report.

2.6.2.7 Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture, and if so, how?

2.6.2.8 Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum, and if so, how?

2.6.2.9 Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions, and if so, how?

The Project will provide for the generation of 1,760 GWh of renewable electricity per year is enough to power up to 253,000 households, representing up to 12% of private dwellings in New Zealand. The Project supports a low carbon future by increasing New Zealand's renewable electricity generation capacity, contributing directly to national climate change mitigation and electrification targets. This aligns with New Zealand's current target of net zero emissions by 2050 and supports Pillar 3 of the New Zealand Climate Strategy: "Clean energy is abundant and affordable."

2.6.2.10 Will the project support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards, and if so, how?

2.6.2.11 Will the project address significant environmental issues, and if so, how?

The Project will make a significant contribution to decarbonising New Zealand's energy system and achieving the Government's energy and climate targets. By generating approximately 1,760 GWh of renewable electricity per year, the Project will materially increase national renewable generation capacity, supporting the transition away from fossil fuel-based energy.

2.6.2.12 Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies, and if so, how?

The following statutory planning documents apply to the proposal:

- Taranaki Regional Policy Statement
- Horizons Regional Policy Statement (as given effect through the One Plan)
- Horizons One Plan
- Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan
- South Taranaki District Plan
- Whanganui District Plan

At a regional policy level, both the Taranaki Regional Policy Statement

and the Horizons Regional Policy Statement recognise the national and regional significance of renewable electricity generation and provide for its development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading. This direction is consistent with national direction, including the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS-REG), which requires decision-makers to recognise and provide for the benefits of renewable electricity generation (Objective A and Policies A and B).

At the same time, the regional policy framework adopts an integrated management approach, requiring that adverse effects on the environment are appropriately avoided, remedied, or mitigated. In particular, both Regional Policy Statements include objectives and policies relating to:

- the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (e.g. giving effect to section 6(a) of the RMA);
- the identification and protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna (section 6(c));
- the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes and the maintenance of amenity and landscape values (section 6(b)); and
- the recognition and provision for the relationship of Māori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga (section 6(e)).

At a regional plan level, the Horizons One Plan and the Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan generally provide for activities within and adjacent to waterbodies, subject to the implementation of best practice measures. This includes requirements relating to erosion and sediment control, minimising disturbance to riverbeds and margins, maintaining fish passage, and protecting water quality and ecological values.

At a district plan level, the project area is located within rural zones under both the South Taranaki District Plan and the Whanganui District Plan, where renewable electricity generation activities are generally anticipated, subject to an effects-based assessment. Under the Whanganui District Plan, the site spans the Rural Production Zone and General Rural Zone, with renewable electricity generation addressed through the Network Utilities chapter. The associated assessment criteria require consideration of a broad range of effects, including landscape and visual, ecological, cultural, transport and access, and cumulative effects. In addition, the Coastal Environment Special Management Zone applies along the coastal margin and introduces further considerations relating to natural character, coastal processes, and landscape values.

Under the South Taranaki District Plan, the site is located within the

Rural Zone, with renewable electricity generation similarly addressed through an integrated energy and infrastructure framework. The Plan also identifies a number of areas with special characteristics in proximity to the site, including Significant Natural Areas (e.g. SNA 31 and 33), areas of Outstanding Natural Character (ONC3), Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (ONFL 7), and the Coastal Protection Area. The objectives and policies applying to these overlays set clear expectations for the protection of ecological, landscape, and coastal values.

Both District Plans contain strong Tangata Whenua provisions, including objectives and policies that recognise the relationship of Māori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga (consistent with section 6(e) of the RMA), and provide for Māori land development and engagement with iwi and hapū. Both Councils have emphasised the importance of meaningful and ongoing engagement with tangata whenua.

The project has been shaped having regard to this planning framework, including by seeking to avoid significant ecological areas and sensitive landscape features identified in the relevant planning documents. Engagement with mana whenua has been initiated early, is ongoing, and will be supported by a Cultural Effects Assessment. Technical assessments are being prepared in accordance with relevant policy direction and best practice methodologies, including application of recognised ecological significance criteria and standard erosion and sediment control measures.

A comprehensive assessment of the proposal against the relevant objectives, policies, and rules of the applicable planning instruments will be provided as part of the substantive application.

Section 3: Project details

Remember: at this stage only a general level of detail is required, enough to inform eligibility to use the fast-track approvals process.

For construction activities, please state the anticipated commencement and completion dates.

Construction of Waiinu Energy Park is scheduled to commence in Q3 2028, with all infrastructure becoming fully operational by Q2 2031, and full commissioning expected by Q3 2033. Further detail is provided in Section 6 of the Referral Application Report.

3.1 Approvals required

Applications must specify all of the proposed approvals sought but only need to provide a general level of detail about each proposed approval, sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application.

For each proposed approval an applicant must be eligible to apply for any corresponding approval under a specified Act. For example, if an approval is for a notice of requirement under the RMA, the applicant for that approval would need to be a requiring authority.

Applications for approvals under a specified Act, as required by in [section 13\(4\)\(y\)](#), are covered below in 3.8 Specific proposed approvals.

3.1.1 Outline the approvals sought under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Land Use Consent(s) in accordance with Section 9 of the RMA; Land Use Consent(s) in accordance with Section 13 of the RMA; Water Permit(s) in accordance with Section 14 of the RMA; and Discharge Permit(s) in accordance with Section 15 of the RMA.

3.1.2 Outline the approvals sought under the Conservation Act 1987

3.1.3 Outline the approvals sought under the Reserves Act 1977

3.1.4 Outline the approvals sought under the Wildlife Act 1953

Wildlife Act Authority in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953 to catch, handle and track bittern and bats, and to trap handle and relocate lizards, and for potential incidental or unintended mortality from catching and releasing lizards.

3.1.5 Outline the approvals sought under the National Parks Act 1980

3.1.6 Outline the approvals sought under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

Archaeological authority in accordance with Section 44 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

3.1.7 Outline the approvals sought under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

3.1.8 Outline the approvals sought under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012

3.1.9 Outline the approvals sought under the Crown Minerals Act 1991

3.1.10 Outline the approvals sought under the Public Works Act 1981

3.1.11 *Only applicable if more than one applicant:* Provide a statement of which approvals are proposed to be held by which applicant.

3.1.12 Where there are any particular eligibility requirements to apply for an above approval; identify what they are, who the relevant applicant is, and confirm that the relevant applicant meets those requirements (including providing any necessary supporting information or documentation to evidence this).

Section 13(4)(y)(i) and Clause 2 of Schedule 5 of the FTA require additional information to be provided where an approval is sought for resource consent under the RMA. Consideration of those relevant matters is provided in Section 14 of the Referral Application Report.

3.1.13 Are there any other types of consents, certificates, designations, concessions, and other legal authorisations (other than contractual authorisations or the proposed approvals) and you consider are needed to authorise the project (including any that may be needed by someone other than you as the applicant(s)). Provide details on whether these have been obtained.

There are no other types of consents, certificates, designations, concessions, and other legal authorisations needed to authorise the project.

3.2 Project stages

3.2.1 If the project is planned to proceed in stages, provide: No

1. A statement of whether the project is planned to proceed in stages, including:
 - a. an outline of the nature, scale and timing of the stages; and
 - b. a statement of whether you intend to lodge a separate substantive application for each of the stages.
 - i. If a substantive application is intended to be lodged for each stage, address the questions under the section (Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process) for each stage of the project

3.3 Alternative project

3.3.1 If the project is proposed as an alternative project, provide: No

1. A statement of whether a part of the project is proposed as an alternative project in itself; and
 - a. Describe that part of the project; and
 - b. Explain how that part of the project proposed as an alternative project meets the referral assessment criteria in [section 22](#) of the Act.

3.4 Adverse effects

3.4.1 Describe any anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment.

A full consideration of the known adverse effects of the project provided in Section 8 of the Referral Application. Technical memoranda have been prepared and are included in Appendices 6–9 of the Referral Application.

A range of environmental effects associated with the Waiinu Energy Park have been identified and assessed at a preliminary level. These include landscape and visual, ecological, earthworks and sedimentation, contaminated land, traffic, social and community, cultural, archaeological and heritage, lighting (glint and glare), noise and vibration, aviation, radio interference, hazardous substances, and natural hazards.

The Project has been iteratively designed to avoid or minimise effects where practicable, including through setbacks from sensitive landscape and ecological features, avoidance of cultural and archaeological sites, and refinement of infrastructure layout. Further comprehensive assessments will be provided with the substantive application, which will consider and appropriately manage adverse effects.

3.4.2 Provide a statement of any activities involved in the project that are prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991, and identify the relevant prohibited activity provision.

For the purposes of Section 13(4)(i) of the FTAA, it can be confirmed that the Waiinu Energy Project does not involve any prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991.

3.5 Persons affected

3.5.1 Provide a list of the persons, groups and/or entities who you consider are likely to be affected by the project.

The list should include, as relevant, local authorities, relevant Māori groups (as set out at [section 13\(4\)\(j\)\(ii\)-\(vii\)](#) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024), persons with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 198; and if the project includes a land exchange, the holder of an interest in the land

that is to be exchanged by the Crown (see [Consultation requirements for referral application](#)).

The relevant Local Authorities being: Taranaki Regional Council, South Taranaki District Council, Horizons Regional Council, and Whanganui District Council; Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi / Te Kaahui o Rauru being the relevant Iwi authority and treaty Settlement entity; Relevant administering agencies being: Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga; Transpower (New Zealand) Limited, New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi; and adversely affected landowners adjacent to the site. See full details in Section 10 of the Referral Application Report.

3.5.2 Provide a summary of any consultation undertaken with the above persons and/or groups who you consider are likely to be affected by the project, and any other groups required to be consulted with under [section 11](#) of the Act, **and** how the consultation has informed the project.

A full summary of consultation undertaken has been provided in Section 10 and Appendix 5 of the Referral Application Report. The Project has been shaped through consultation and engagement with the community, mana whenua, and stakeholders. This has informed a number of design iterations, including the reconfiguration and removal of turbines, to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

Key outcomes of this project shaping include:

- Avoiding the use of Waiinu Beach Road for major heavy construction traffic, thereby reducing potential effects on local road users.
- Reviewing turbine locations in proximity to Te Ihupuku Marae to reduce visual effects and avoid archaeological sites, resulting in the removal of three turbines.
- Refining turbine positions to incorporate additional setbacks from identified ecological habitats, based on advice from ecologists and feedback from the Department of Conservation.
- Removing the four turbines closest to Waiinu Beach following feedback from Waiinu Beach residents through the open day and subsequent meetings, as well as further input from landscape experts.

In addition, feedback received through ongoing engagement is continuing to inform the preparation of the substantive application, including the refinement of mitigation measures and management approaches to address identified effects.

3.5.3 List any Treaty settlements that apply to the project area and provide a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements.

There is one Treaty Settlement relevant to the Project, being the Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi Deed of Settlement 2003, and the associated Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi Claims Settlement Act 2005. A summary of the relevant principles and provisions of that settlement is provided below in accordance with Section 13(4)(l) of the FTA.

Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi Claims Settlement Act 2005 provides the legislative framework that furthers the agreements expressed in the Deed of Settlement, including the revitalisation of Ngaa Raurutanga, between the Crown and Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi. This legislation recognises the special relationship of Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi with the land and resources, including those used and affected by the proposal.

A key aim of the settlement is to support the revitalisation of Ngaa Raurutanga, including the cultural identity, values, practices, and ongoing relationship of Ngā Rauru Kītahi with their ancestral lands, waters, and resources. The legislation recognises this special relationship, including those resources used and affected by the proposal.

The Crown acknowledges the cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association of Ngaa Rauru Kītahi with uukaipoo sites, and statutory acknowledgement areas which include Nukumarū Recreation Reserve, and Tapuarau Conservation Area. Both of those areas are outside the project footprint but are in close proximity.

Nukumarū Recreation Reserve

Nukumarū Recreation Reserve is located on the coast between Waiinu and Tuaropaki. Ngaa Rauru Kītahi traditionally camped at Waikaramihi (within Nukumarū Recreation Reserve) from October to March each year. The main food gathering area was between the Waitootara river mouth and Tuaropaki. The sources of food include kākahi (fresh water mussels), sea mussels, kina, paua, pāpaka (crabs), karengo (seaweed), and very small octopus stranded in the small rock pools from the receding tides. While Ngaati Maika and Ngaati Ruaiti were the main hapuu that used Waikaramihi, all Ngaa Rauru Kītahi hapuu traditionally gathered kai moana in accordance with the values of Ngaa Raurutanga.

The Karewaonui canoe (over 100 years old) was, until 1987, housed at Waikaramihi and was used by Ngaa Rauru Kītahi (mainly Ngaati Maika and Ngaati Ruaiti) to catch stingray, shark, snapper, and hāpuka up to about 10 miles off the coast. Karakia were used when Karewaonui was “put to sea”, and an offering of the first fish caught on Karewaonui was always given to the Kaitiaki-o-te-moana.

Hawkens Lagoon (Tapuarau) Conservation Area

Tapuarau is the name given to the area at the mouth of the Waitootara River within the Tapuarau Conservation Area. The main hapuu of Ngaa Rauru Kītahi that used Tapuarau included Ngaati Hine Waiatarua, Ngaati Hou Tipua, Ngaa Ariki, and Ngaati Ruaiti. Ngaa Rauru Kītahi has long used Tapuarau as a seasonal campsite from where it has gathered mahinga kai in accordance with the values of Ngaa Raurutanga. Tapuarau extends from the mouth of the Waitootara River to Pukeone and includes several small lagoons, including Tapuarau Lagoon, which are the source of tuna, flounder, mullet, whitebait, and inanga. During flooding, Ngaa Rauru Kītahi was able to take tuna as it attempted to migrate from the nearby lagoons to the river mouth. The former marae named Hauriri was also situated in this area.

Both sites are still significant to Ngaa Rauru Kītahi as a mahinga kai source from which the physical well-being of Ngaa Rauru Kītahi is sustained, and the spiritual well-being nourished.

The purpose of the statutory acknowledgement area is to:

- to require consent authorities, the Environment Court, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga to have regard to the statutory acknowledgements,
- to require relevant consent authorities to forward summaries of resource consent applications to the governance entity; and
- to enable the governance entity and a member of Ngaa Rauru Kītahi to cite the statutory acknowledgements as evidence of the association of Ngaa Rauru Kītahi with the relevant statutory areas.

3.5.4 If relevant, detail any principles or provisions in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 that would be invoked by the project and

identify which aspects of the application trigger or otherwise invoke these requirements.

For the purposes of Section 13(4)(n) of the FTA, the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 is not relevant to the Project.

3.5.5 Will the project be located on land returned under a Treaty settlement?

No

3.5.6 Provide evidence of written agreement by the owners of the land returned.

3.5.7 Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the project:

Not applicable.

3.5.8 Provide information identifying any parcels of Māori land, marae, or identified wāhi tapu within the project area:

A map of Māori land, marae, or identified wāhi tapu in proximity to the Project site is provided in Appendix 2 of the Referral Application Report.

3.6 Legal interests

3.6.1 Provide a description of any legal interests you or any others applying, have in the land on which the project will occur, including a statement of how that affects your ability to undertake the work.

Meridian has or will hold a legal interest in the land on which the Waiinu Energy Park is proposed to be located through a series of lease agreements with the respective landowners. These agreements have or are being entered into as part of negotiated civil arrangements, providing Meridian with the necessary rights to access, develop, construct, and operate the Project across the various parcels of land.

These lease arrangements provide a secure and legally enforceable basis for Meridian to undertake all aspects of the Project, including site investigations, construction, and ongoing operation. No constraints have been identified that would prevent Meridian from lawfully exercising its rights under these agreements or from carrying out the proposed activities as part of the Waiinu Energy Park.

3.7 Other matters

3.7.1 Have any activities included in the project, or any that are substantially the same as those involved in the project, previously been the subject of an application or a decision under a specified Act?

Please note the term 'application' includes a notice of requirement and any other means by which a decision may be sought under a specified Act.

No

3.7.2 If an application has been made, provide details of the application.

3.7.3 If a decision has been made, also provide the outcome of the decision and the reasons for it.

3.7.4 Provide a description of whether and how the project would be affected by climate change and natural hazards:

The Project will not be affected by climate change or natural hazards.
Provide the additional details requested below as relevant to your application.

3.8 Specific proposed approvals

3.8.1 Approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991

3.8.1.1 *Resource consents*

If your application is seeking a consent for an activity that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, including an activity that is prohibited under the Act, provide the information below:

- An assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement, any relevant national environmental standards and, if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

The Project has been assessed against relevant national policy statements, national environmental standards, and (where relevant) the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement in Section 14.1 of the Referral Application Report. A summary is provided below.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS-REG)

The Project strongly aligns with the NPS-REG by recognising and providing for the significant national, regional, and local benefits of renewable electricity generation. It will materially increase generation capacity, support emissions reduction targets, and enhance security and resilience of electricity supply. The Project reflects the operational and functional need to locate in areas with suitable wind resource and grid connection (Policy C), and has been designed to manage adverse effects through an effects management hierarchy (Policy F). Engagement with tangata whenua continues to inform the Project development, consistent with Policy E. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)

The Project is not inconsistent with the NPS-FM. Infrastructure has been sited to avoid, as far as practicable, wetlands and water bodies. Where effects cannot be avoided, they will be managed in accordance with the effects management hierarchy to protect freshwater values, including indigenous biodiversity and habitat.

National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL)

The Project avoids land identified as highly productive (LUC 1–3), and therefore the NPS-HPL does not apply.

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)

While the NPS-IB does not apply to renewable electricity generation activities, the Project has nonetheless adopted a consistent approach by avoiding or minimising effects on significant natural areas and indigenous biodiversity through design, setbacks, and mitigation measures.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS)

The Project has been designed to avoid the coastal environment and therefore the NZCPS does not directly apply. However, indirect effects have been considered, with setbacks and design measures ensuring that adverse effects on coastal character and natural character are appropriately managed.

- Information on whether, to the best of your knowledge, there are any existing resource consents relevant to the project site to which RMA [section 124C\(1\)\(c\)](#) (existing consent would need to expire to enable the approval to be exercised) or RMA [section 165ZI](#) (space already occupied by the holder of an aquaculture permit) would apply if the approval were to be applied for as a resource consent under that Act

There are no existing resource consents relevant to the project site to which RMA section 124C(1)(c) or RMA section 165ZI would apply.

3.8.1.2 *Resource consents where the project includes standard freshwater fisheries activities*

If your application is seeking a resource consent and your project includes a [standard freshwater fisheries activity](#), provide the information requested below:

- If an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), provide a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.
While the proposal includes culvert crossings, these will be designed and constructed to maintain fish passage. Accordingly, the project does not involve a standard freshwater fisheries activity, nor does it require an approval under section 42(4)(j).

- Indicate whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.
As noted above, the project does not involve a standard freshwater fisheries activity.

3.8.1.3 *Designations*

If your application is seeking a designation or an alteration to an existing designation for which a notice of requirement would otherwise be lodged under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide the information below:

- An assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement, any relevant national environmental standards, or, if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Not applicable.

3.8.1.4 *Designations where the project includes a standard freshwater fisheries activity*

If your application is seeking a designation or an alteration to an existing designation and your project includes a [standard freshwater fisheries activity](#), provide the information requested below:

- If an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), provide a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.

Not applicable.

- Indicate whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.

Not applicable.

3.8.1.5 *Change or cancellation of conditions*

If your application is seeking a change or cancellation of resource consent condition that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide:

- Information about whether the change or cancellation of the condition is material to the implementation or delivery of the project.

Not applicable.

3.8.1.6 *Certificates of compliance*

If your application is seeking a certificate of compliance that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide:

information that demonstrates the activity that the certificate of compliance is intended to cover can be done lawfully in the location without a resource consent.

Not applicable.

3.8.2 Approvals relating to [Conservation Act 1987](#), [Reserves Act 1977](#), [Wildlife Act 1953](#), and [National Parks Act 1980](#)

3.8.2.1 *Concessions*

For applications seeking a [concession](#) that include a lease, answer the following:

- Will the lease be for a term (including any renewals that will, or is likely to, be more than 50 years?
No
- Will the granting of the lease trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return?
 - If you answered yes to both a. and b. above, provide evidence that the applicant has written agreement from the holder(s) of the right of first refusal or [right of offer or return](#) to waive that right for the purposes of the proposed lease.

3.8.2.2 *Land exchanges*

For applications seeking an approval for a land exchange involving conservation land, provide the details below:

No

- A description of both land areas proposed for exchange (for example, maps showing areas and location, addresses and legal descriptions where possible)
- The financial value of the land proposed to be acquired by the Crown
- A brief description of the conservation values of both pieces of land, including an explanation of why the exchange would benefit the conservation estate.
- If the land exchange would trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return, provide evidence that the applicant has written agreement from the holder of the right of first refusal or right of offer or return to waive that right for the purpose of the land exchange

- Provide sufficient detail in respect of both land areas to confirm that no part of any land to be exchanged by the Crown is land listed in [Schedule 4](#) or a reserve declared to be a national reserve under [section 13](#) of the Reserves Act 1977.

3.8.3 Approvals relating to complex Freshwater Fisheries activities

If your application is seeking an approval or dispensation that would otherwise be applied for under regulation [42](#) or [43](#) of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 in respect of a [complex freshwater fisheries activity](#) provide the information requested below:

- Whether an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), and a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.
- Whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.

3.8.4 Approvals relating to [Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf \(Environmental Effects\) Act 2012](#)

If your application is seeking a marine consent that would otherwise be applied for under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Act 2012, provide the information requested below:

- Any information relating to whether the Minister for Conservation is an affected person.
- If the applicant or the proposed holder of the marine consent has already applied for a consent under the EEZ Act in relation to the project, provide:
 - Details of any application made;
 - An explanation of any decisions made on that application; and
 - Any information that Minister may consider under [section 22\(6\)](#) (comparison of activity against current or likely use of the area).
- Additional information (in a summary form) about compliance or enforcement action taken against the applicant or the person who is identified in the application as the proposed holder of the marine consent by the EPA under the EEZ Act.

3.8.5 [Approvals relating to Crown Minerals Act 1991](#)

3.8.5.1 *Access arrangements*

For an approval for an access arrangement that would otherwise be applied for under section 61 or 61B of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, provide:

- Information that confirms the applicant or the person identified in the application as the proposed holder of the access arrangement complies with [section 59](#)(1) and (2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (which applies as if a reference to an access arrangement under that Act were a reference to an access arrangement under this Act) including:
 - Evidence that the applicant or person has provided each owner and occupier of the relevant land a notice in writing of their intention to obtain an access arrangement; and
 - Evidence that the notice complies with the requirements in [section 59](#)(2) of the Crown Minerals Act, and any matters required by regulations. =

3.8.5.2 *Mining permits*

For an approval for a mining permit that would otherwise be applied for under [section 23A](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, provide the information requested below:

- A copy of the relevant exploration permit or existing privilege to be exchanged for a mining permit that entitles the holder to mine a Crown-owned mineral.
- The name and contact details of the proposed permit participants and the proposed permit operator.
- A proposed work programme for the proposed permit, which may comprise committed work, committed or contingent work, or both.
- Evidence of the technical or financial capability of the proposed permit holder to comply with and give proper effect to the work programme.
- Information about the proposed permit holder's history of compliance with mining or similar permits and their conditions.
- The proposed date on which the substantive application is intended to be lodged (if your referral application is accepted) in accordance with [section 42](#)(11).
- If the authorised person proposes to provide information under [section 37](#) (to the relevant chief executive), the date on which the person intends to provide that information.

- The proposed duration of the permit.

3.8.5.3 *Mining permits for petroleum*

If the proposed approvals include a mining permit for petroleum, provide:

- A map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be the same area as the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made), and the extent of the resource and reserves to which the development plan relates.
- The resources and reserves relating to the project, estimated in accordance with the Petroleum Resources Management System.
- A high-level overview of the following:
 - the proposed field development plan;
 - the proposed date for the commencement of petroleum production;
 - the economic model for the project;
 - the proposed duration of the proposed mining permit and;
 - decommissioning plans.

3.8.5.4 *Mining permits for minerals other than petroleum*

If the proposed approvals include a mining permit for minerals other than petroleum, provide:

- A map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be the same area as the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made), and the extent of the resource and reserves to which the development plan relates.
- For minerals other than gold or silver, a report or statement confirming the ownership of the minerals targeted
- Information on whether the application will be for a [Tier 1 or Tier 2 permit](#).
- An estimate of the mineral resources and reserves relating to the project, including a summary on acquisition of the data and the data underpinning the estimate (such as

information on sample locations, grade, and geology). For a Tier 1 permit application the resources and reserves relating to the project are to be estimated in accordance with a recognised reporting code such as JORC or NI 43-101.

- An indicative mine plan.

- A high-level overview of the following:
 - the proposed mining method;
 - the proposed date for the commencement of mining and estimated annual production;
 - the economic model for the project;
 - the status of or anticipated timing for completing any pre-feasibility or feasibility studies;
 - the proposed methods for processing mined material and handling and treating waste and;
 - anticipated plans for mine closure and rehabilitation.

Section 4: Authorisation

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true and correct.

I confirm that I am authorised to make this application - Yes

I have provided a copy of the application with all contact details redacted - Yes

I understand that all actual and reasonable costs incurred in relation to this application by MfE, EPA and other central and local government agencies will be recovered from me in accordance with [section 104](#) of the Act, and the [Fast-track Approvals Cost Recovery Regulations 2025](#) - Yes

Signature: *Andrew Guerin*

Date: 3/31/2026

Name: Andrew Guerin

Section 5: Attachments

List any documents submitted with the application.

- Remember: include a copy of your application with all contact details redacted.

Attachment number	Document name	Author	Document version

Referral application checklist

Use this checklist to confirm you have completed all sections of the referral application form.

Section 1: Applicant details	Yes
1.2 & 1.3 Agent's evidence of authority to represent the applicant(s) - if applicable	Yes
1.4 Compliance and enforcement history	Yes
Section 2: Referral application summary	Yes
2.1 Project name	Yes
2.2 Project description and location	Yes
2.3 Ineligible activity	Yes
2.4 Exemptions from requirement to provide agreement	Yes
2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24	Yes
2.6 Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process	Yes
Section 3: Project details	Yes
3.1 Approvals required	Yes
3.2 Project stages	Yes

3.3 Alternative project	Yes
3.4 Adverse effects	Yes
3.5 Persons affected	Yes
3.6 Legal interest	Yes
3.7 Other matters	Yes
3.8 Specific proposed approvals	Yes
Section 4: Authorisation	Yes
Section 5: Attachments	Yes