

Rangitikei Solar Farm – Referral Application Checklist



Requirements of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (incorporating Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025)	Comments
Steps before lodging referral application	
Section 11: Consultation and notification requirements for referral application	
(1) Before lodging a referral application, the applicant must— (a) consult— (i) any relevant applicant groups with applications for customary marine title under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011; and (ii) ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou, if the project area is within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou; and (b) notify in writing— (i) the relevant local authorities; and (ii) any relevant iwi authorities, hapū, and Treaty settlement entities, including— (A) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements; and (B) the tangata whenua of any area within the project area that is a taiāpure-local fishery, a mātaihai reserve, or an area that is subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996; and (iii) the relevant administering agencies; and (iv) if the proposed approvals for the project are to include an approval described in section 42(4)(f) (land exchange), the holder of an interest in the land that is to be exchanged by the Crown.	Subclause 11(1)(a)(i) and (ii) of the Fast Track Approvals Act (FTAA) are not relevant to the project. Met. In terms of (1)(b), written notification of the application was sent to the following parties: - Relevant local authorities, being: - Rangitikei District Council - Horizons Regional Council - Relevant iwi authorities, being: - Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust - Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Copies of the responses received are provided in Appendix E of the Statutory Planning Report. Subclause 11(1)(b)(iii) and (iv) is not relevant to the project.
(2) If a referral application is to be lodged by more than 1 person, any 1 of those persons may comply with this section on behalf of all of them.	The referral application is being lodged by FRV Services New Zealand Limited (FRV), who is the applicant. FRV provided SLR with written authority to, on their behalf, provide written notification of the project to the above parties in accordance with section 11(1)(b) of the FTAA.

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(3) A person or group who receives a notice under subsection (1)(b) may provide the applicant with a response to the notice not later than 20 working days after receiving the notice.	Met. Responses were received from the following parties: • Horizons Regional Council • Rangitikei District Council • Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa
Referral application	
Section 13: Referral application	
<i>General requirements</i>	
(1) A person or persons may apply to use the fast-track approvals process for a project by lodging a referral application with the responsible agency.	Met. The referral application has been lodged.
(2) The referral application— (a) must be lodged in the form and manner approved by the responsible agency; and (b) must be lodged jointly by all of the persons who are proposed to be authorised persons for the project; and (c) must include the information specified in subsection (4); and (d) must specify all of the proposed approvals, but need only provide a general level of detail about each proposed approval, sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application; and (e) must not be lodged unless any fee, charge, or levy payable under regulations in respect of the application is paid.	Met. (a) The application has been lodged in the form and manner approved by Ministry for the Environment (MfE) – via the On-line portal. (b) The application has been lodged by FRV Services New Zealand Limited (FRV). (c) All of the information specified in subclause (4) has been provided. Refer to the application and the attached Statutory Planning Report and supporting Economic Assessment Report and Technical Memorandums. (d) The proposal seeks resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). (e). The referral application fee will be paid upon lodgement.
(3) For each proposed approval,— (a) the applicant must be eligible to apply for any corresponding approval under a specified Act; or (b) if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, the person who is to hold the proposed approval must be a person who would be eligible to apply for any corresponding approval under a specified Act.	Met. The referral application has been lodged by FRV Services New Zealand Limited (FRV), who is eligible to apply for the approval.
<i>Information requirements</i>	
(4) The information to be included in the referral application is as follows:	Met. Refer to the application and associated supporting documents (Statutory Planning Report and supporting Economic Assessment Report and Technical Memorandums).



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<i>Proposal and effects</i>	
<i>(a) a description of the project and the activities it involves:</i>	Met. Refer to Section 2.0 of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR for a description of the project and the activities it involves.
<i>(b) an explanation of how the project meets the criteria in section 22:</i>	Met. Refer to Section 5.0 of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR which provides an explanation of how the project meets the criteria in section 22 of the FTAA.
<i>(c) information to demonstrate that the project does not involve any ineligible activities (other than activities that may be the subject of a determination under section 23 or 24):</i>	Met. The project does not involve any ineligible activities pursuant to section 5 of the FTAA, as: • None of the sites subject to the application would occur on: ○ Identified Māori land; ○ A customary marine title area; ○ Māori customary land; or ○ Land set apart as Māori reservation as defined in s4 of the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. • The project is not for an aquaculture activity or an activity that is incompatible with an aquaculture activity. • The project is not an activity that would require an access arrangement under s61 or 61B of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. • The project is not an activity that would be prevented under section 165J, 165M, 165Q, 165ZC, or 165ZDB of the RMA, as the project does not involve a coastal permit or relate to the common marine and coastal area. • The project is not an activity on land that is listed in Schedule 4 and is unrelated to section 24 of the FTAA. • The project does not involve a prohibited activity under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 or any regulations made under that Act. • The project does not involve an activity that is described in section 15B of the RMA or that is a prohibited activity under that Act or regulations made under it. • The project does not involve an activity that is prohibited by section 15C of the RMA. • The project does not involve a decommissioning-related activity (which is an activity described in section 38(3) of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012). • The project is not for an offshore renewable energy project.



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<i>(d) a description or map of the whole project area that identifies its boundaries in sufficient detail to enable consideration of the referral application:</i>	Met. Refer to Section 3.0 and Appendix B of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR which provides a clear description and map of the project area, and the legal description of the land parcels to which the project relates.
<i>(e) the anticipated commencement and completion dates for construction activities (where relevant):</i>	Met. Construction of the project is anticipated to commence in 2028, and construction works are anticipated to be completed in 2030.
<i>(f) a statement of whether the project is planned to proceed in stages and, if so,— (i) an outline of the nature and timing of the stages; and (ii) a statement of whether a separate substantive application is to be lodged for each of the stages; and (iii) an explanation of how each stage meets the criteria in section 22:</i>	N/A - The project is not proposed to be staged, other than the possibility of the proposed BESS being constructed once the solar farm is operational. The BESS will be included as part of the substantive application for the entire project.
<i>(g) a statement of whether a part of the project is proposed as an alternative project in itself and, if so,— (i) a description of that part of the project; and (ii) an explanation of how that part of the project meets the criteria in section 22:</i>	N/A – no part of the project is an alternative project.
<i>(h) a description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment and the significance of those adverse effects:</i>	Met. Refer to Section 6.0 of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR, which provides a description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment and the significance of those adverse effects.
<i>(i) a statement of any activities involved in the project that are prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991:</i>	No approvals are sought for a prohibited activity.
Persons affected	
<i>(j) a list of the persons and groups the applicant considers are likely to be affected by the project, including— (i) relevant local authorities: (ii) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements: (iii) other relevant iwi authorities: (iv) relevant Treaty settlement entities:</i>	Met. Refer to Section 7.0 and Appendix D of the Statutory Planning Report which outlines the organisations and persons the applicant considers are likely to be affected by the project.



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(v) relevant protected customary rights groups and customary marine title groups: (vi) ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou, if the project area is within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou: (vii) relevant applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011: (viii) persons with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 1981:	
(k) a summary of— (i) the consultation undertaken for the purposes of section 11(1)(a) and any other consultation undertaken on the project with the persons and groups referred to in paragraph (j); and (ii) how the consultation has informed the project:	Met. Refer to Section 7.1 and Section 7.2 and Appendix F of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR which provides a summary of the pre-referral consultation undertaken with mana whenua, Rangitikei District Council and Horizons Regional Council and how the consultation has informed the project. Note: Section 11(1)(a) of the FTAA is not relevant to the project.
(ka) a summary of how any responses provided under section 11(3) have informed the project;	Met. Refer to Section 7.2 and Appendix F of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR which provides a summary of how the responses to the notification of the project under section 11(3) of the FTAA have informed the project.
(l) a list of any Treaty settlements that apply to the project area, and a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements:	Met. Refer to Section 3.4 of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR which confirms the Treaty settlements that apply to the project area and provides a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements.
(m) a description of any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the project:	N/A - to referral application.
(n) a statement of any relevant principles or provisions in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019:	N/A - to referral application.
(o) information identifying the parcels of Māori land, marae, and identified wāhi tapu within the project area:	N/A - to referral application.
Information relating to activity that may be subject of determination under section 23 or 24	
(p) a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 23 and, if so, an assessment of the effects of the activity on the relevant land and on the rights and interests of Māori in that land: (q) a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 24(2) and, if so, a description of—	N/A - to referral application.



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<i>(i) the scale and adverse effects of the existing electricity infrastructure; and</i> <i>(ii) how, if at all, that scale or those adverse effects are anticipated or known to change as a result of the maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of the infrastructure:</i> <i>(r) a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 24(4) and, if so,—</i> <i>(i) a description of every alternative site considered by the applicant (or, if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, any of those persons) for the construction and operation of the new electricity lines (the activity); and</i> <i>(ii) for each alternative site considered,—</i> <i>(A) a statement of the anticipated and known financial cost of undertaking the activity; and</i> <i>(B) a description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of undertaking the activity; and</i> <i>(C) a description of the anticipated and known financial cost and practicality of available measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for the anticipated and known adverse effects of the activity; and</i> <i>(D) a description of any issues (including financial cost) that would make it impractical to undertake the activity on the site; and</i> <i>(E) an assessment of whether it would be reasonable and practical to undertake the activity on the site, taking into account the matters referred to in subparagraphs (A) to (D) and any other relevant matters:</i>	
What is needed to complete project	
<i>(s) a description of the applicant's legal interest (if any), or if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, the legal interest of any of those persons (if any), in the land on which the project will occur, including a statement of how that affects the applicant's ability to undertake the work:</i>	FRV has agreements to lease with the landowners to facilitate the implementation of the solar farm project. There are no interests registered against the various record of titles applying to land within the project site, which would hinder the ability for the solar farm project to be implemented. Refer to Section 3.1.3. and 3.1.4 of the Statutory Planning Report which outlines the Records of Title and agreements to lease and the legal interests on the Records of Title.



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<i>(t) an outline of the types of consents, certificates, designations, concessions, and other legal authorisations (other than contractual authorisations or the proposed approvals) that the applicant considers are needed to authorise the project, including any that the applicant considers may be needed by someone other than the applicant:</i>	Refer to Section 4.0 of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR which sets out the approvals required to authorise the project. The approvals required are resource consents under the RMA.
Other matters	
<i>(u) whether any activities that are involved in the project, or are substantially the same as those involved in the project, have been the subject of an application or a decision under a specified Act and,— (i) if an application has been made, details of the application: (ii) if a decision has been made, the outcome of the decision and the reasons for it:</i>	N/A – the activities that are involved in the project, or any substantially similar proposal, has not been subject to an application or decision under a specified Act.
<i>(v) a description of whether and how the project would be affected by climate change and natural hazards:</i>	The project site is affected by natural hazards due to parts of the site being subject to inundation during a 0.5% AEP flood event, and the nature and frequency of weather events are anticipated to increase because of climate change. Refer to section 6.6 of the Statutory Planning Report which discusses the potential natural hazard and flooding effects of the project and associated management. In summary, the project design has been informed by preliminary hydraulic modelling and will manage natural hazard effects through generally avoiding the siting of infrastructure within high-risk flood affected areas, ensuring the design avoids changes to the location of flow path inflows or outflows at the project boundaries, ensuring the design does not alter the function of Detention Dam 4 associated with the flood management scheme, and designing any culverts to maintain water conveyance during a 0.5m AEP flood event.
<i>(w) if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, a statement of each proposed approval to be held by each of those persons:</i>	N/A – the approval will be held by FRV.
<i>(x) a summary of compliance or enforcement actions (if any), and the outcome of those actions, taken against the applicant (or if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, any of those persons) under a specified Act:</i>	Met. No compliance and/or enforcement actions have been taken against FRV under the Resource Management Act 1991.
Matters relating to specific proposed approvals	
<i>(y) if the proposed approvals include— (i) an approval described in section 42(4)(a) or (d) (resource consent or designation), the information specified in clause 2 of Schedule 5:</i>	Met. Refer to the below.



Requirements of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (incorporating Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025)	Comments
Schedule 5 – Approvals relating to the Resource Management Act 1991	
Information required in referral application	
Section 2: Information about resource consent or notice of requirement required in referral application	
<i>(1) The information required to be provided under section 13(4)(y)(i) is—</i> <i>(a) an assessment of the project against—</i> <i>(i) any relevant national policy statement; and</i> <i>(ii) any relevant national environmental standards; and</i> <i>(iii) if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement; and</i>	Refer to Section 8.0 of the Statutory Planning Report prepared by SLR which provides an assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement or national environmental standards. Note: The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) is not relevant to the application.
<i>(b) in relation to any proposed approval that is a resource consent, whether, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, there are any existing resource consents of the kind referred to in section 30(3)(a).</i>	Met. There are no existing resource consents of the kind referred to in section 30(3)(a) under the FTAA.
<i>(2) If the referral application is to be lodged by more than 1 person, the reference to the applicant in subclause (1)(b) must be read as a reference to the person who is to be identified in the application as the proposed holder of the resource consent.</i>	Acknowledged.

