



FTAA-2605-1231 Application received for referral of the project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Stage 1 decisions

Project Name: Mangapapa Wind Farm

Date submitted:	22 May 2026	Tracking #: 26-BRF-01365	
Security level:	In-Confidence	MfE priority:	Urgent

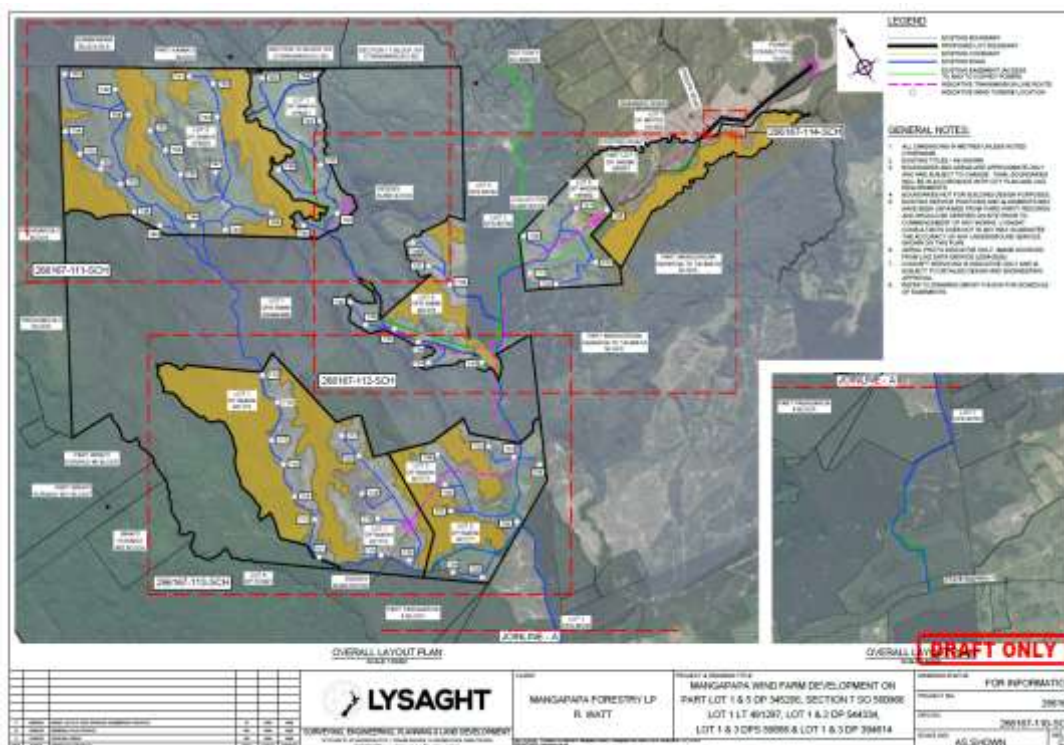
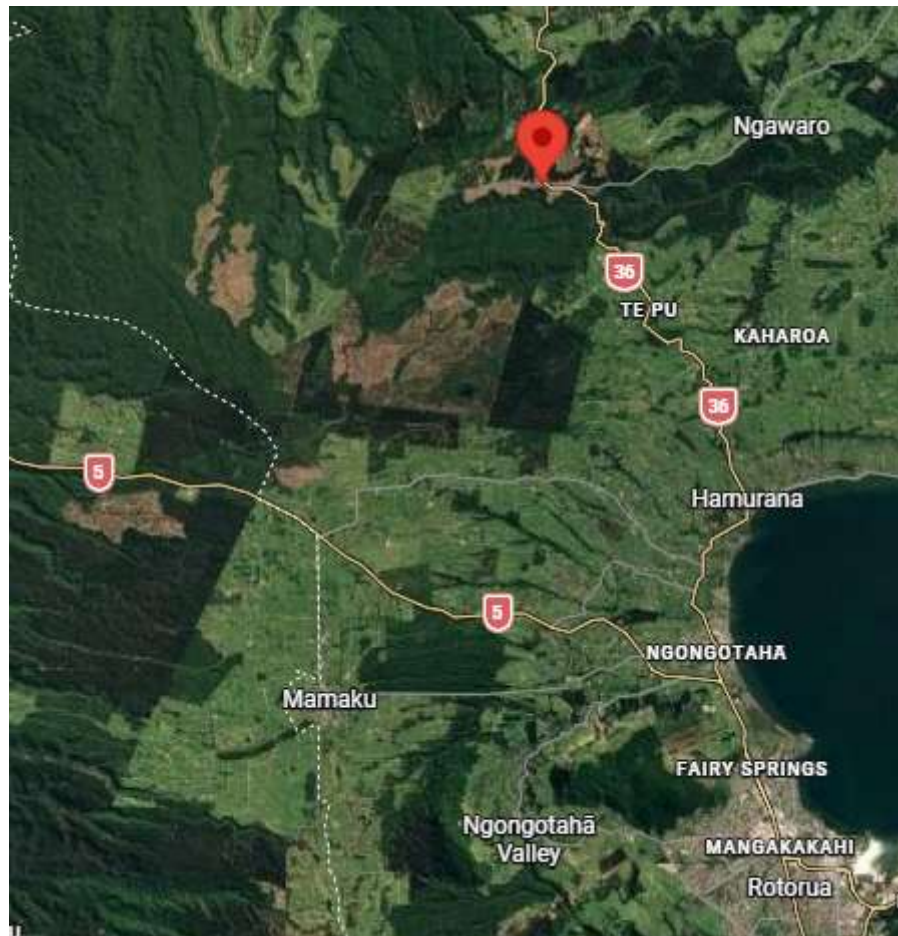
	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure	Decisions on recommendations in Table A	

Actions for Minister's Office staff	Return the signed briefing to: FTAreferrals@mfe.govt.nz Send email to Ministers to invite written comments
Number of appendices: 3	Appendices: 1. Statutory framework summary 2. Application documents for Mangapapa Wind Farm 3. List of the Māori groups referred to in section 18(2)

Ministry for the Environment contacts:

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal Author	Antonia Croft		
Manager	Stephanie Frame	s 9(2)(a)	✓
General Manager	Ilana Miller	s 9(2)(a)	

Project location



Key messages

1. This briefing seeks your initial decisions on an application from Mamaku Renewables Limited (the applicant) to refer the Mangapapa Wind Farm project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track approvals process.
2. At this stage you can either decline an application for the reasons set out section 21, or provide the application to, and invite comments from, the parties identified in section 17. If you do not decline the application, you will receive a further briefing following receipt of comments, to inform your final decision on whether to refer the project.
3. The project is for the construction and operation of a large-scale wind farm covering land parcels of approximately 3,800 hectares the Mamaku Plateau, located between State Highway 29, Pyes Pā Road (State Highway 36), and State Highway 5, therefore between Tauranga and Rotorua, in the Bay of Plenty.
4. The project includes:
 - a. approximately 70 turbines (maximum tip height of 266 metres),
 - b. substations and an on-site battery energy storage system, internal roading, crane pads and turbine foundations, and both overhead and underground cabling, including grid connection infrastructure.
 - c. ancillary works include laydown areas, batching plants, vegetation clearance, earthworks, and water takes.
 - d. ongoing operation and maintenance of the turbines and associated infrastructure, with grid connection to the Tarukenga–Kaitemako 220 kV transmission line, for which Transpower approval has been confirmed.
5. The project will enable generation of approximately 1.39 Terawatt Hours (TWh) of electricity annually, with an installed capacity of around 453.6 Megawatts (MW), equivalent to power around 196,000 households.
6. The project will require the proposed approvals:
 - a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991
 - b. approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953
 - c. an archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014
7. We have undertaken initial analysis of the referral application, and this is presented along with our considerations and recommendations in Table A.
8. We have decided the application is complete and complies with section 14 of the Act, as the application complies with section 13 requirements, may be capable of satisfying the criteria in section 22 and does not appear to involve an ineligible activity. The applicable fee and levy have been paid.
9. We recommend you progress consideration of the referral application to the next stage of analysis (Stage 2) and invite written comments from the parties prescribed in section 17(1) of the Act being:
 - a. Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council as the relevant local authorities

- b. the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development
 - c. the Minister of Conservation, the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, the Minister for Energy, and the Minister of Climate Change as the other relevant portfolio Ministers
 - d. Department of Conservation and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as the relevant administering agencies
10. We recommend that you invite written comments from the following persons as an additional person under section 17(5) of the Act:
- a. the Chief Executive of NZ Transport Agency
 - b. the Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand Limited
 - c. the Minister for Regional Development
 - d. the Minister for Economic Growth.

Action sought

11. Please indicate your decisions on the recommendations in Table A.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Frame', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Table A: Stage 1 analysis

	Project Name		Applicant		Project Area	
Project details	Mangapapa Wind Farm		Mamaku Renewables Limited c/-Agent Anderson Lloyd		Multiple land parcels covering an estimated minimum of approximately 3,800 hectares on the Mamaku Plateau, located between State Highway 29, Pyes Pā Road (SH36), and State Highway 5 in the Bay of Plenty.	
Project description	The project includes: - approximately 70 turbines (maximum tip height of 266 metres), - substations and an on-site battery energy storage system, internal roading, crane pads and turbine foundations, and both overhead and underground cabling, including grid connection infrastructure. - ancillary works include laydown areas, batching plants, vegetation clearance, earthworks, and water takes. - ongoing operation and maintenance of the turbines and associated infrastructure, with grid connection to the Tarukenga–Kaitemako 220 kV transmission line, for which Transpower approval has been confirmed. The project will enable generation of approximately 1.39 Terawatt Hours (TWh) of electricity annually, with an installed capacity of around 453.6 Megawatts (MW), equivalent to power around 196,000 households. The project will require the proposed approvals: - resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.					
Notification and/or consultation undertaken	As required by section 11, the applicant has:					
	Notified in writing, the relevant local authorities	Notified in writing, the relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities	Consulted, the relevant MACA groups	Consulted, ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou	Notified in writing, the relevant administering agencies	Notified in writing, the holder of land to be exchanged
	Bay of Penty Regional Council Western Bay of Penty District Council	Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority Te Runanga o Ngāti Ranginui iwi (incl. Ngāi Tamarāwaho, Ngāti Ruahine) Te Maru o Ngāti Rangiwewehi Iwi Authority Tapuika Iwi Authority Ngāti Hangarau Te Kapu o Waitaha Te Komiti Nui o Ngāti Whakaue Te Tāwharau o Ngāti Pūkenga	N/A	N/A	Department of Conservation Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	N/A
Section 22 assessment criteria						
The project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits [section 22(1)(a)]	<i>The Minister <u>must</u> consider a relevant Government policy statement (GPS) [s22(1A)]</i> The only current relevant GPS is the Government Policy Statement on Grocery Competition. The project does not include commercial activities will include a supermarket development or grocery related activities; therefore we consider the Government Policy Statement on Grocery Competition is not relevant to your decision. You <u>may</u> consider any of the following matters, or any other matters the Minister considers relevant: <i>Will deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure [s22(2)(a)(ii)]</i> The applicant states that the project will deliver new regionally/nationally significant infrastructure. The project will enable generation of approximately 1.39 Terawatt Hours (TWh) of electricity annually, with an installed capacity of around 453.6 Megawatts (MW), equivalent to power around 196,000 households. <i>Will deliver significant economic benefits [s22(2)(a)(iv)]</i> The applicant has outlined the following economic benefits of the project: - a capital investment of approximately \$1.3 billion in total, or approximately 390 million within New Zealand - estimated to generate \$77.2 million to Gross Domestic Product per year over first 3 years; total of approximately \$231.6 million in (GDP) during construction period - supporting approximately 1,278 FTE jobs (direct and indirect) during construction, and 250 FTE jobs on an ongoing basis. - during operation estimated to generate \$138 million in annual revenue directly and indirectly contributing approximately \$81.2 million in GDP per annum. <i>Will support primary industries, including aquaculture [s22(2)(a)(v)]</i> The applicant states that project will support the existing primary uses of the land which are forestry/carbon farming/dry stock which can continue, and construction will source sand/gravel/cement locally, supporting local quarrying. <i>Will support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum [s22(2)(a)(vi)]</i>					

	The applicant states the project will utilise the natural wind resource on the Mamaku Plateau to generate electricity. The site is a “Class 1” wind resource area with high average wind speeds meaning it is highly suitable for efficient and reliable electricity generation. <i>Will support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions [s22(2)(a)(vii)]</i> The applicant states the project will: - enable the further electrification of sectors and activities that are currently dependant on fossil fuel combustion - prove significant value for New Zealand to meet its broader decarbonisation and emissions reductions commitments - contribute to the mitigation and/or offset of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to the acceleration, frequency and severity of natural hazards caused by climate change. <i>Will support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards [s22(2)(a)(viii)]</i> The applicant states that wind farms contribute to the overall diversification and resilience of New Zealand’s infrastructure system, thus supporting climate change adaptation. <i>Will address significant environmental issues [s22(2)(a)(ix)]</i> The applicant states the project will materially contribute to the supply of renewable energy in New Zealand, rather than utilising additional fossil fuel generation. The increase in renewable energy generation in New Zealand is required to meet the growing demand for electricity across the country, but particularly in the Bay of Plenty Region where housing development is rapidly increasing. <i>Is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies [s22(2)(a)(x)]</i> The applicant states that the project is consistent with the following: - the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement which identifies renewable electricity generation as regionally significant infrastructure. - the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan which provides for renewable electricity generation in the rural zone, where the Project is located, and where there is a legitimate functional and operational need. - the SmartGrowth Strategy 2023–2073 - a spatial plan which identifies electricity infrastructure as a key enabler of urban and business growth.		
Referring the project to the fast-track approvals process [section 22(1)(b)]	<i>Would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes [s22(1)(b)(i)]</i> The applicant considers that the Fast-track Approvals Act process will enable the Project to be approved and construction-ready in a materially more timely and efficient manner than would occur under standard approval pathways because: - the fast-track process enables the range of approvals to be considered through a consolidated process and decision-making framework, rather than through multiple separate statutory processes. - a fast-track process for a project of this nature may reasonably be completed within approximately 6 months from substantive lodgement. This is expected to result in at least a 12–18-month reduction in approval timeframes for the RMA processes alone. <i>Is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process [s22(1)(b)(ii)]</i> The applicant states that the project will not materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process because: - the project is supported by an established and coordinated consultant team and is being informed by ongoing technical, environmental, and engineering assessments intended to support an efficient and integrated substantive application process - utility-scale wind farm developments are not novel within the New Zealand consenting context, including within previous Fast-track processes. The nature of the project’s potential effects, and the types of mitigation and consent conditions typically applied to such projects, are generally well understood and capable of being appropriately managed through project design, technical assessment, and consent conditions.		
Minister invites comments	<i>You must copy the application to, and invite written comments from [s17(1)]:</i> - relevant local authorities: - Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Western Bay of Plenty District Council - the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development - other relevant portfolio Ministers: - Minister for Energy - Minister of Climate Change - Minister of Conservation - Minister for Arts Heritage and Culture - relevant administering agencies: - Department of Conservation - Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga - the Māori groups identified in Appendix 3	<i>You may copy the application to, and invite written comments from, any other person [s17(5)]:</i> We recommend you invite comments from the following additional persons, for the specified reasons: - the Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand- as the National Grid Operator - the Chief Executive of NZ Transport Agency – as the project is near the State Highway network - Minister for Regional Development - Minister for Economic Growth *regarding inclusion of local lines company- the project is located between Tauranga and Rotorua and is intended to connect to the National Grid, with the transmission corridor and point of connection not yet finalised. As a result, no local lines company is specified; the project would most likely connect directly to Transpower’s network, with any involvement from a distribution network (likely Powerco or potentially Unison) remaining uncertain at this stage.	<i>The Minister may request further information about a referral application from the applicant, the relevant local authorities, or the relevant administering agencies to be provided within the time frame specified in the request.</i> N/A
Recommendations			Minister’s decision
a. Note that section 25 of the Act permits you to decline the referral application without inviting comments from the parties under section 17.			Noted
b. Note that you have not yet provided the application to, nor sought any written comments on it from, the parties listed in section 17(1) but that you are required to do so if you do not decline the application under section 21 of the Act.			Noted
c. Note that section 17(5) of the Act permits you to forward an application to, and invite written comments from, any other person.			Noted

d. Note that if comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame you are required to consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.	Noted
e. Note that section 20 of the Act permits you to request further information from the applicant or relevant local authorities or relevant administering agencies at any time before you decide whether to accept or decline an application.	Noted
f. Agree to progress the Mangapapa Wind Farm project to our Stage 2 analysis (invite written comments and request section 18 Treaty report).	Yes / No
g. Agree to provide the application to, and invite written comments from: i. Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council as the relevant local authorities under section 17(1)(a) ii. the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development under section 17(1)(b) iii. the Minister of Conservation, the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, The Minister for Energy, and the Minister of Climate Change as the other relevant portfolio Ministers under section 17(1)(b) iv. Department of Conservation and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as the relevant administering agencies under section 17(1)(c) v. the parties in Appendix 3 as the identified Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) vi. any parties you are required to invite comments from under section 17(1)(d) and (e) who may be subsequently identified.	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No
h. Agree to provide the application to and invite written comments from the following additional persons under section 17(5): i. the Chief Executive of Transpower New Zealand ii. the Chief Executive of the NZ Transport Agency iii. the Minister for Regional Development iv. the Minister for Economic Growth.	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No
i. Note that you have agreed to delegate to the Secretary for the Environment your responsibility to send all correspondence, other than to Ministers.	Noted
j. Agree to send the email to invite written comments from Ministers.	Yes / No

Signed:

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister for Infrastructure

Date:

Appendix 1: Statutory framework summary

1. You are the sole decision maker for referral applications. If you accept a referral application, then the whole or part of the project will be referred to the fast-track approvals process.
2. If a Treaty settlement, the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011, the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019, a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or a joint management agreement provides for consideration of any document or procedural requirements, you must, where relevant:
 - a. give the document the same or equivalent effect through this process as it would have under any specified Act; and
 - b. comply with any applicable procedural requirements.
3. You must decline a referral application if:
 - a. you are satisfied the project does not meet the referral criteria in s22
 - b. you are satisfied the project involves an ineligible activity (s5)
 - c. you consider you do not have adequate information to inform your decision.
4. You may decline an application for any other reason, including those set out in s21(5) and even if the application meets the s22 referral criteria.
5. You can decline an application before or after inviting comments under s17(1). However, if comments have been sought and provided within the required time frame, you must consider them, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.
6. If you do not decline a referral application at this initial stage you must copy the application to, and invite written comments from:
 - a. the relevant local authorities
 - b. the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development
 - c. any other relevant portfolio Ministers
 - d. the relevant administering agencies
 - e. the Māori groups identified by the responsible agency
 - f. the owners of Māori land in the project area (if applicable)
 - g. you may provide the application to and invite comments from any other person.
7. You can request further information from an applicant, any relevant local authority or any relevant administering agency at any time before you decide to decline or accept a referral application (see section 20 of the Act).
8. However, if further information has been sought and provided within the required time frame you must consider it, along with the referral application, before deciding to decline the application.

Appendix 2: Application documents for Mangapapa Wind Farm project

Appendix 3: List of the Māori groups referred to in section 18(2)

**FTAA-2605-1231 Mangapapa Wind Farm –
confirmed relevant Māori groups**

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)
Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Ranginui Settlement Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Ranginui Claims Settlement Act 2025)
Tapuika Iwi Authority Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Tapuika Claims Settlement Act 2014).
Te Tāhuhu o Tawakeheimoa Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāti Rangiwewehi Claims Settlement Act 2014)
Te Maru o Ngāti Rangiwewehi Iwi Authority	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Raukawa Settlement Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014)
Ngāi Te Rangi Settlement Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – deed of settlement signed 14 December 2013)
Ngā Pōtiki a Tamapahore Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – deed of settlement signed 14 December 2013)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Ngāi Tamarawaho	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))
Ngāti Hangarau	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))