

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

MINUTE 4 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Request for Further Information
Southland Wind Farm [FTAA-2508-1095]

19 December 2025

[1] On 18 December 2025 the Government announced three new national direction instruments and a suite of amendments to existing national direction instruments effective from 15 January 2026.

[2] At least five of these instruments appear directly relevant to the Panel's assessments of the Southland Windfarm Project Application:

- a. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Amendment 2025
- b. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025
- c. Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025
- d. National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025
- e. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025

[3] Accordingly, the Panel requests that the Applicant, the Southland District Council, the Gore District Council and the Southland Regional Council each identify amendments in these instruments that are now relevant to their previous assessments of the Southland Windfarm Project under Schedule 5, clause 5(1)(h)

and clause 5(2) and undertake an assessment of the Project against those amended provisions, with a particular focus on any new or amended provisions that weigh either in favour of, or against, the granting of the approvals sought for the Project with reference to section 85 FTAA.

[4] In accordance with section 67(3) FTAA, the Panel directs that the information be provided to the EPA on, or preferably before, **4.00 pm, Friday 23 January 2026.**

[5] The Panel directs that the EPA publishes the information on the Fast-track website's Southland Windfarm Project page.

[6] If you require any further information about this RFI, please contact the EPA's Application Lead, Keely Paler, at: info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Gordon', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ian Gordon

Expert Panel Chair of the Southland Wind Farm Panel.