

**BEFORE AN EXPERT PANEL**

**UNDER THE** Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024

**IN THE MATTER** An application for resource consents and a concession application in relation to The Point Solar Farm

**BY** FAR NORTH SOLAR FARM LIMITED

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF LAILA ALKAMIL  
(PLANNING)**

**Dated: 30 April 2026**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. My name is Laila Alkamil. My evidence is given on behalf of Far North Solar Farm Limited (**FNSF**) in relation to the proposed The Point Solar Farm (**the Project**).
2. My qualifications were provided to the Panel in my evidence dated 26 February 2026.
3. My evidence is in response to request for further information from The Panel dated 11 March 2026 requesting an assessment of the proposal against the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (**SASM**).

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

4. While I am providing this evidence in an FTAA application process, I wish to confirm to the Panel that I have read the Environment Court Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2023 and agree to comply with it. I confirm that the opinions expressed in my evidence are within my area of expertise except where I state that I have relied on the evidence of other persons. I have not omitted to consider materials or facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions I have expressed.

## **ASSESSMENT AGAINST SASM PROVISIONS**

5. The site has the following SASM sites adjacent to it:
  - (a) SASM4 and SASM5 – Hakataramae Valley / River Trails;
  - (b) SASM19 – Te Ao Marama / Lake Benmore;
  - (c) SASM21 – Takapo River;
  - (d) SASM35 – Whakatipu / Twizel River;
  - (e) SASM37 – Pukaki River; and
  - (f) SASM46 – Ohau River.

6. I have reviewed the provisions of Plan Change 24 (PC24), which introduces the SASM chapter to the Mackenzie District Plan. PC24 is now deemed operative.
7. The purpose of the SASM provisions is to recognise and protect sites and areas of cultural significance to mana whenua, including wāhi tapu and other taoka, and to enable the exercise of kaitiakitanga.
8. I note that the proposal is not located within a SASM, however given the site's proximity to Twizel River, Pukaki River and Lake Benmore as well as the surrounding landscape, an assessment against the SASM provisions is justified. On that basis, I have considered the following SASM provisions:
  - (a) Objective SASM-O1;
  - (b) Objective SASM-O2;
  - (c) Objective SASM-O3;
  - (d) Objective SASM-O4;
  - (e) Policy SASM-P2;
  - (f) Policy SASM-P3;
  - (g) Policy SASM-P4; and
  - (h) Policy SASM-P5.
9. I assess the proposal against these provisions in **Annexure A**. Overall, I consider the application to be consistent with the relevant SASM provisions.
10. A draft assessment of the proposal was sent to Ngāi Tahu for comment on 29 April 2026; their comments are attached in **Annexure B**.
11. Ngāi Tahu commented that Strategic Objectives MW-01 and Strategic Objective MV-02 were not assessed, however I note that these specific provisions were considered in the substantive application. I do not consider there to be any changes to that assessment.

12. Furthermore, Ngāi Tahu noted that the lack of early engagement from the Applicant prior to lodging the substantive application and considered that no consultation was undertaken during the development of management plans and site-specific conditions. I acknowledge that the relationship between the Applicant and Ngāi Tahu broke down prior to the lodgement of the substantive application. However, moving forward, the Applicant is committed to establishing a constructive and respectful working relationship with Ngāi Tahu, including through meaningful engagement beyond the confines of the fast-track process. This will involve early, transparent, and ongoing dialogue on matters of interest, with a view to ensuring that Ngāi Tahu values and perspectives are appropriately understood and, where possible, incorporated.
13. Notwithstanding the constraints of the current process, I also note that draft conditions were provided to Ngāi Tahu for review and comment. While this does not substitute for earlier engagement, it does represent an initial step toward re-engagement and reflects the Applicant's willingness to involve Ngāi Tahu in shaping aspects of the proposal.
14. Further discussion with Ngāi Tahu on matters relating to access to mahika kai and nohoaka sites would be beneficial, particularly in identifying opportunities to provide for such access through specific conditions. I note that the responsibility rests with the Applicant to initiate and progress these discussions.
15. I am of the view that the mana whenua specific conditions included in the latest set of conditions (dated 21 April 2026) pathway for ongoing involvement in the future and may assist in addressing some of the gaps arising from the limited pre-lodgement engagement.
16. The proposed conditions will provide opportunities for mana whenua to be appropriately involved as the project progresses and that cultural values continue to be recognised and provided for in practice.

**Laila Alkamil**  
**Dated 30 April 2026**

**Annexure A. SASM Assessment**

**Annexure A. Ngāi Tahu Comments**