

Nova Twizel Solar

Project overview conference

22 September 2026

- Attendees and introductions;
- Project development journey;
- Site plans – Concept layout and development exclusion areas;
- Site plans – Panel and inverter general arrangement;
- Site plans – Site entry and grid connection location;
- Approvals sought under the FTAA;
- Application structure and supporting documentation;
- Supplementary application materials
- Key findings of technical reports;
- Relevant legal tests;
- Issues in contention – Landscape;
- Issues in contention – Ecology;
- Structure of consent conditions;
- Engagement; and
- Proposed site visit details.



General view towards development area looking southeast from upper terrace

Attendees and introductions

Nova Twizel solar consenting project team:

- Bob Warnock – Nova, Project Manager;
- Melany Hunt – Todd, Engagement and Partnerships Advisor;
- Adam Tapsell – Todd, Senior Legal Counsel;
- Cam Twigley – BTW Company, Director Planning and Environment;
- Stephanie de Groot – MinterEllisonRuddWatts, Partner; and
- Kate Storer – MinterEllisonRuddWatts, Special Counsel.

Ecology specialists – Wildland Consultants:

- Della Bennet – Associate Principal Ecologist, Avifauna;
- Roland Payne – Senior Ecologist, Vegetation;
- Vikki Smith – Senior Ecologist, Invertebrates; and
- Cameron Thorp – Ecologist, Herpetology.

Landscape specialist – Rough Milne Mitchell Landscape Architects:

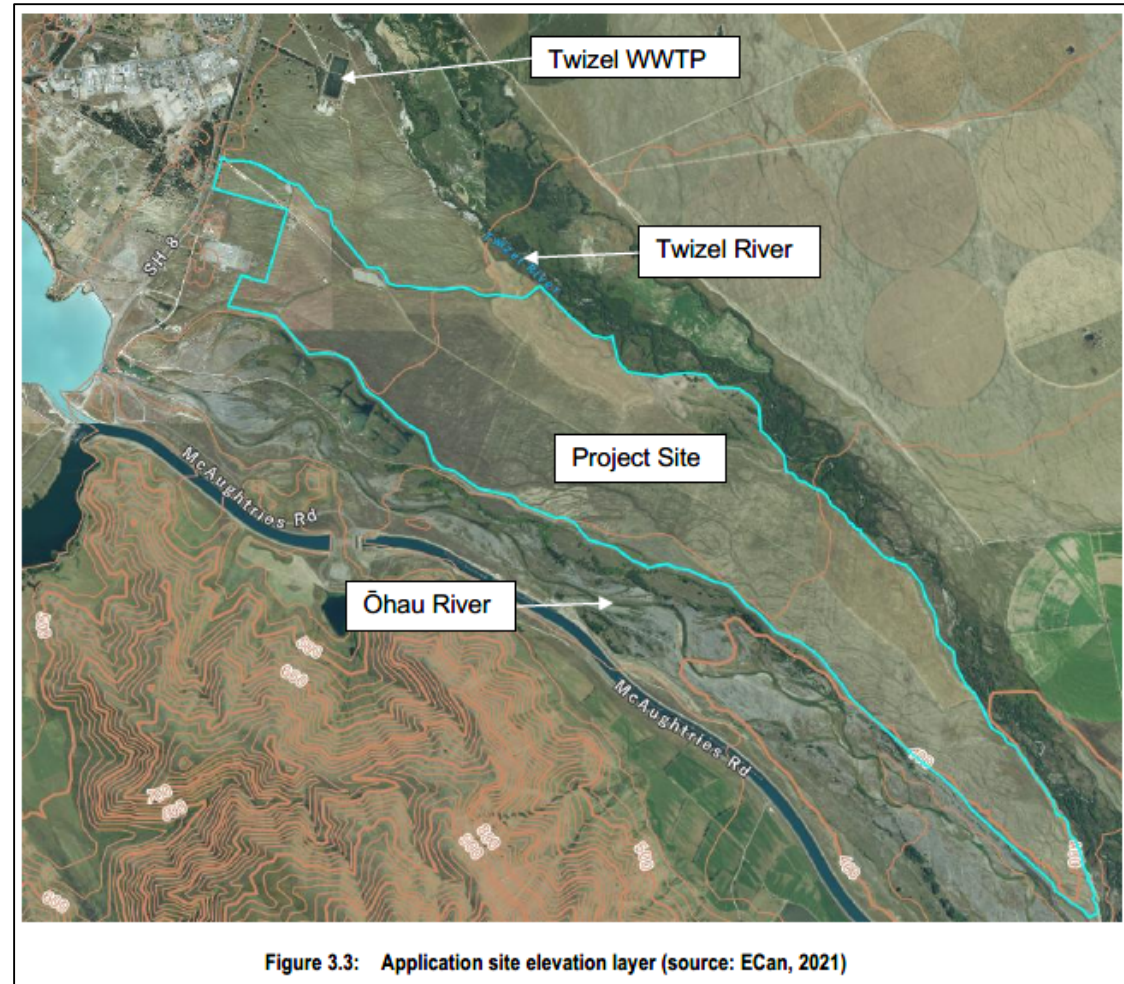
- Paul Smith – Senior Landscape Architect.

Acknowledgement of project experts (not in attendance)

Project development journey

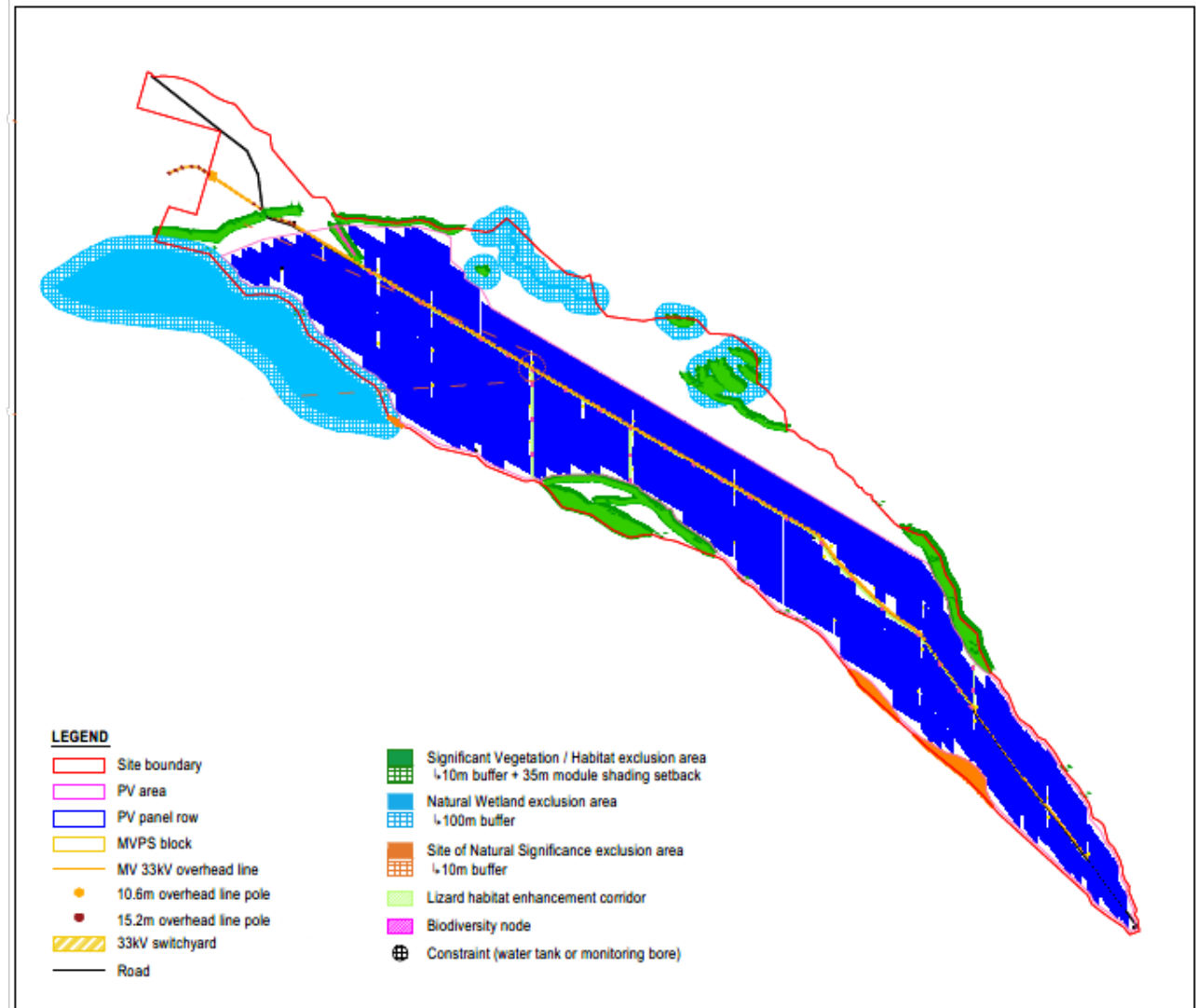
The project development journey to date:

- TGL Farms purchased the property in 2021 for development of a safe and compliant solar generation plant;
- Engagement with project stakeholders from early 2022, onwards;
- Preliminary and further ecological studies commissioned, to understand the ecological context;
- Technical studies commissioned to inform the assessment of effects;
- Concept plan developed that avoids areas of ecological biodiversity;
- Management plans commissioned;
- Minister of Infrastructure accepted Nova's referral application, August 2025; and
- Nova submitted a substantive application to the FTAA process, June 2026.



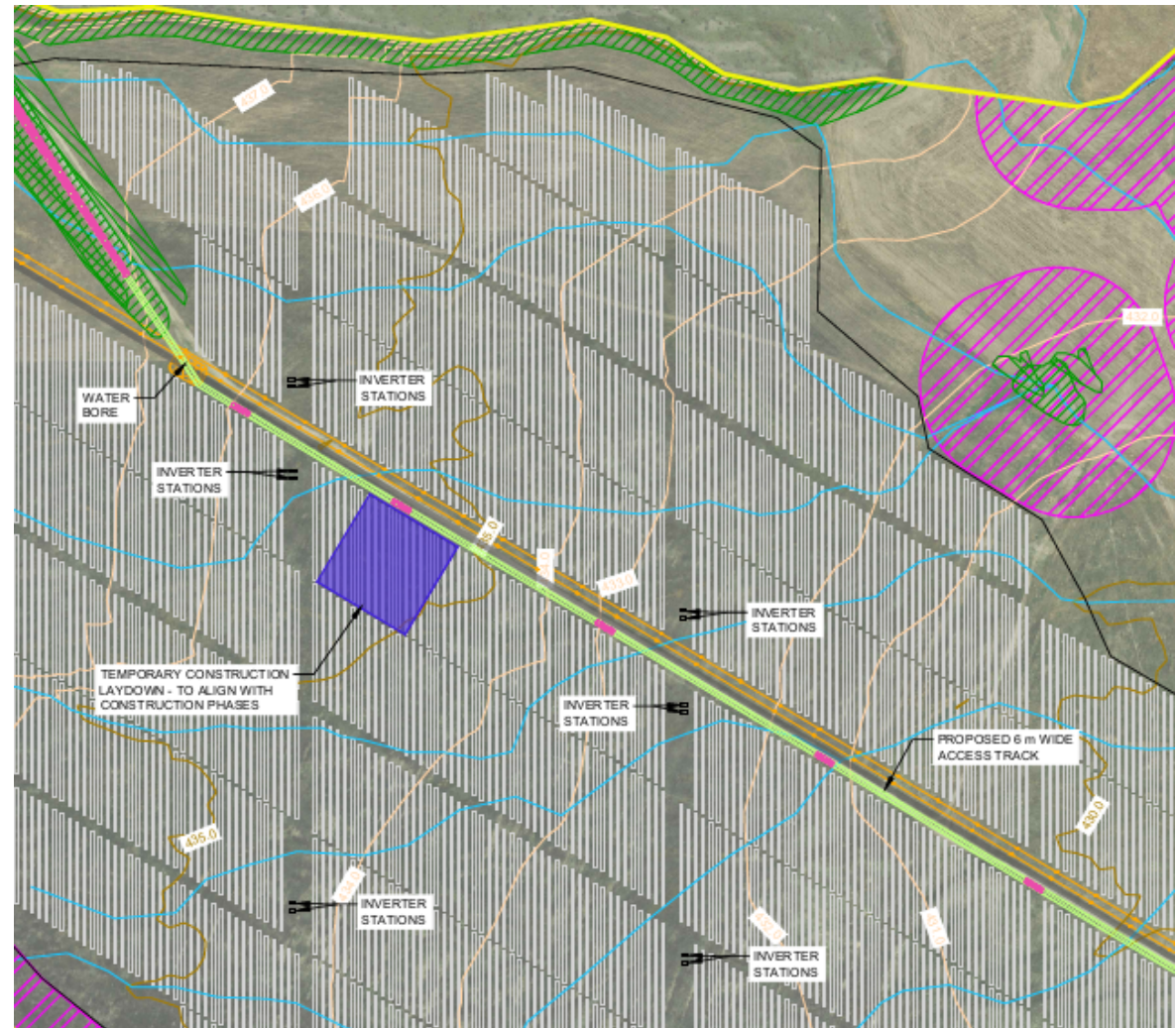
Site plans – Concept layout and development exclusion areas

- Based on ecological surveys and assessment of effects, Nova has developed the proposed solar farm to avoid areas of ecological sensitivity;
- Setbacks are applied to sensitive areas and the site boundary;
- Design includes Lizard corridors and habitat nodes, providing connectivity between sections of lizard and biodiversity habitats;
- Panel layout includes a minimum 5m edge to edge spacing to manage vegetation shading and any possible "lake effect"; and
- Panel section areas are segregated by at least 10m.



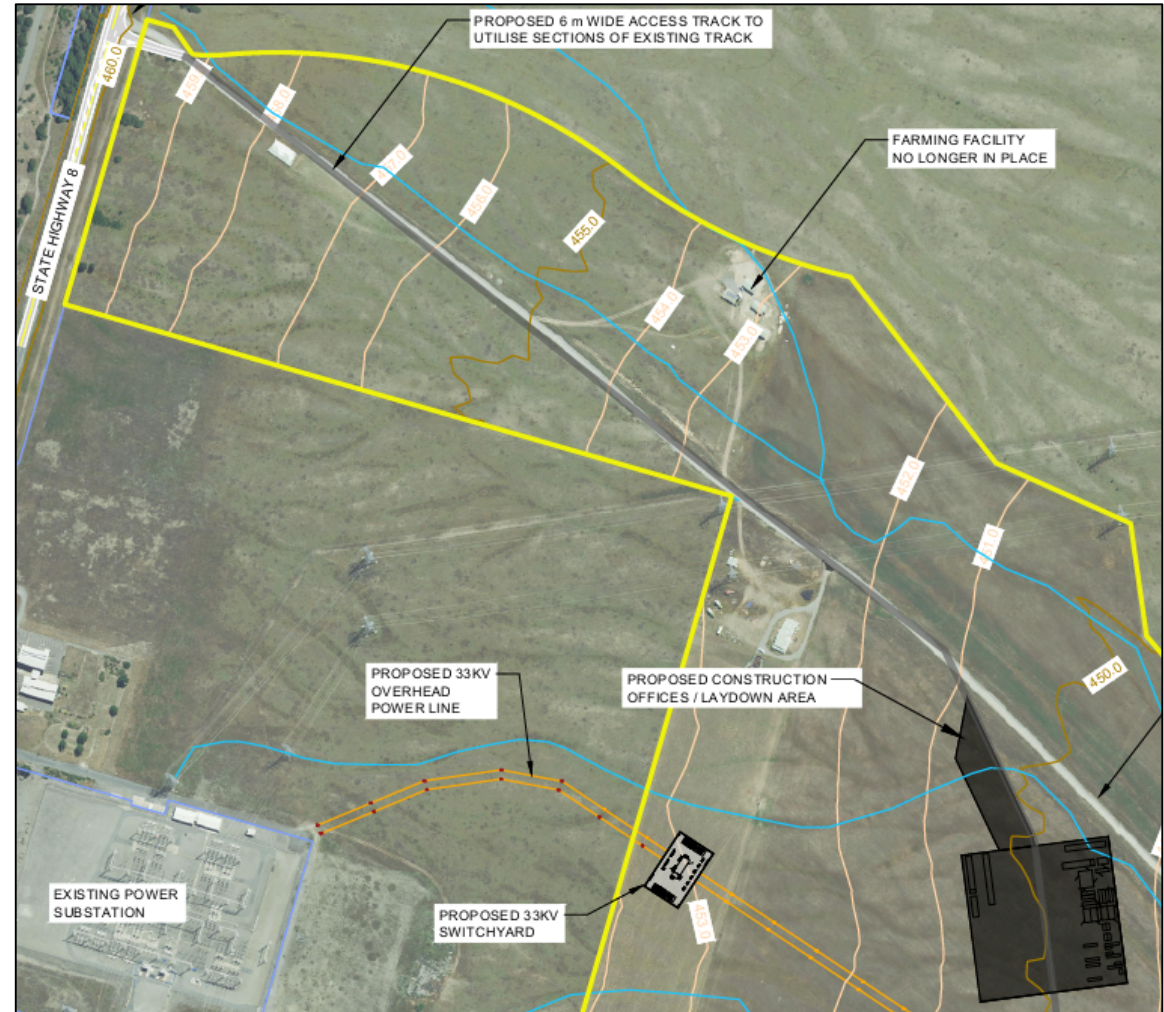
Site plans – Panel and inverter general arrangement

- General arrangement of the panel rows and inverter stations;
- Setbacks shown from various ecologically sensitive areas; and
- Lizard corridors (light green) and habitat nodes (pink) are shown to the south of the proposed access track and connecting with existing lizard habitat.



Site plans – Site entry and grid connection location

- Site entry from State Highway 8 to be modified to improve traffic flow and safety, as per roading designs approved by NZTA;
- Transpower's existing Twizel substation location shown with proposed 33kV overhead power lines from Nova's solar farm site;
- Nova proposes locating power transformers and associated grid connection equipment on Transpower's substation;
- Proposed 33kV switchyard shown on Nova land for the configuration of circuits for grid connection;
- Proposed construction offices and laydown area is shown in grey shading; and
- Power lines are shown crossing Meridian Energy land, this is enabled via an Agreement to Easement between parties.



Approvals sought under the FTAA

Description of the activity:

- Installation and operation of solar farm to generate up to 300MW of renewable energy (enough power for 75,000 homes annually).
- Connection to National Grid via Transpower Twizel Substation.
- Drystock farming activity to continue during operation of solar farm.
- Single construction stage.

Resource consents:

- Land use consents for construction, operation and maintenance of the solar farm activity;
- Stormwater discharge consents (construction and operation); and
- Land use consent for undertaking earthworks over an aquifer.
- Overall activity status - Discretionary

Wildlife Act Approvals:

- Hold, catch, handle or release lizards; and
- Handle and hold Threatened and At-Risk avifauna.
 - Sought as a pro-active, precautionary measure to enable timely and thorough investigation of causes of avifauna mortality, if required.

The application included the following information to meet the requirements of the FTAA:

- Covering legal memorandum;
- Substantive application report;
- Plans that provide the concept layout, civil designs, development exclusion areas and setbacks;
- Technical assessments (refer list in right column);
- Management plans (refer list in right column);
- Integrated ecology framework;
- Draft conditions for Regional and District Council and Wildlife Act approvals;
- Schedule of management plan conditions;
- Consultation records;
- Section 30(3)(b) response letters; and
- Landowner approval.

Technical assessments comprise:

- Ecology;
- Mana whenua report;
- Landscape and Landscape peer review;
- Glint and Glare;
- Archaeology;
- Geotechnical;
- Natural Hazards;
- Preliminary Site Investigation (soil contamination);
- Acoustics;
- Traffic; and
- Economics.

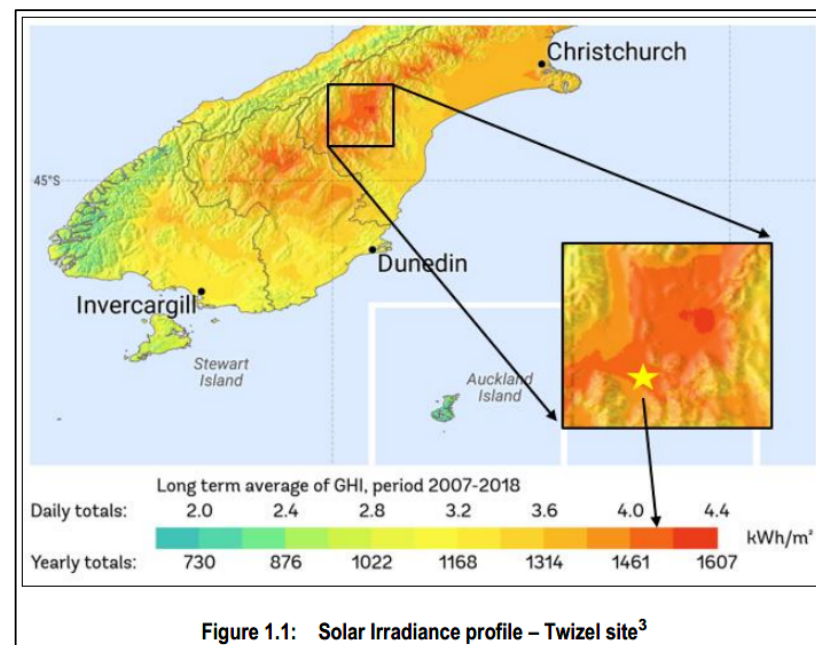
Draft Management plans comprise:

- Ecology (Avifauna, Lizards, Vegetation and Invertebrates)
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Archaeology
- Stormwater

- At Panel Convener conference, Nova confirmed it would provide supplementary materials by 11 September:
 - Supplementary ecology materials – in response to feedback from statutory agencies in s46 completeness reports:
 - Supplementary memoranda in relation to vegetation, lizards, invertebrates and avifauna
 - Updated draft management plans
 - Additional avifauna materials – PVA and Avifauna Carcass Monitoring Programme
 - Supplementary cumulative effects assessments - in response to approval of Haldon Solar Farm.
 - Updated consent conditions – regional and district.

Key findings of technical reports

- Provides significant national and regional benefits (GDP, employment, energy security, transition to renewables);
- Site is suitable for solar development in terms of:
 - Topographical and geotechnical conditions;
 - Solar resource intensity (refer Fig 1.1);
 - Low natural hazard risk;
 - Proximity to existing substation for grid connection;
 - Capacity of transport highway network; and
 - Low productive land capability – Land use class 6 (non-arable).
- Renewable electricity generation and transmission infrastructure is an existing element of the character area;
- Site land use has been predominantly cropping and grazing which has modified the landscape, areas of higher value have been avoided;
- All potential adverse effects (including in terms of landscape and visual effects and ecological effects) can be managed;
- Opportunities to enhance ecological values of site via weed and pest control, enhancement planting and ecological monitoring; and
- Mana whenua report provides guidance on cultural effects.



- Relevant version of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
- Overview of key legal tests
 - o Resource consents
 - o Wildlife Act approval
- Approach to cumulative effects
 - o Implications of Haldon Solar decision and appeal

Landscape effects

- Assessment methodology
- Overview of key findings
 - Removal of mitigation planting
- Conclusions supported by peer review
- Cumulative effects assessment – including approval of Haldon Solar Farm

Vegetation

- Overview of survey work undertaken and ecological value of site
- Key conclusions of effects assessment
- Management responses:
 - 10-35m setbacks from ecologically significant flora
 - Pre-construction survey to capture any changes since last survey
 - Panels must be moved if any threatened or at risk vascular flora shaded by panels
 - Biosecurity and Vegetation Management Plan:
 - Pest plant control
 - Monitoring and reporting (including edge of site and control site, if access provided)
 - Adaptive management in the event of increase in pest species/decline in threatened species

Pest mammal control

- Pest Mammal Management Plan

Lizards

- Overview of survey work undertaken and ecological value of site
- Key conclusions of effects assessment
- Management responses:
 - Habitat avoidance
 - Creation of >30 biodiversity nodes, rock piles and corridors ("enhancement areas").
 - Shading setbacks from lizard habitat
 - Lizard Management Plan
 - Incidental discovery protocol
 - Monitoring and reporting
 - Adaptive management in the event of lizard/planting decline.

Invertebrates

- Overview of survey work undertaken and ecological value of site
- Key conclusions of effects assessment
- Management responses:
 - Salvage and translocation
 - Avoidance of panels in habitat enhancement areas
 - Provision for continued grazing on site where practicable
 - Pest plant and mammal control
 - Terrestrial Invertebrate Management Plan
 - Incidental discovery protocol
 - Monitoring and reporting for the life of the consent
 - Adaptive management - in the event of declines in TGW or no increase in OSG and MG In panel area and enhancement areas

Avifauna

- Overview of survey work, PVA and ecological values of the site
- Key conclusions of effects assessment
- Management responses:
 - Avoidance of areas of high ecological value around perimeter
 - Pre-works avifauna survey
 - Construction controls including setbacks, buffer zones, vehicle speed controls, noise minimisation, avoidance of bare ground where possible.
 - Site and panel design to minimise collision risk
 - Avifauna Management Plan
 - Incidental discovery protocol
 - Avifauna Carcass Monitoring Programme
 - Triggers for adaptive management – confirmed by PVA
 - Tiered/escalating adaptive management responses
 - Compensation

Structure of consent conditions

Draft conditions

- **Regional Council conditions:**
 - Modelled on CRC draft solar conditions;
 - Minor updates to align with Haldon decision; and
 - Recently agreed with CRC
- **District Council conditions:**
 - Strategic framework – plan, do, monitor, review;
 - Life Cycle Structure;
 - Fixed environmental outcomes and limit conditions;
 - Management Plan conditions – best practice approach;
 - Monitoring and Reporting conditions;
 - Adaptive management and compensation;
 - Review and Monitoring conditions;
 - Incorporates elements from Haldon decision (i.e. Avifauna); and
 - Mana whenua conditions to be incorporated
- **Wildlife conditions:**
 - Discussed with DOC and updated

Nova has engaged with all s53 parties since the Panel Convener's Conference;

- Hui with Rūnanga Planners in August and a hui with Rūnanga Planners and Mana Whenua in September;
 - Nova is committed to ongoing engagement and currently awaiting feedback on consent conditions and guidance from mana whenua on future collaborative arrangements.
- Consent condition workshop with CRC and ongoing refinement to reach an agreed draft;
- Facilitation of discussion between DOC and Wildlands to clarify comments on Vegetation effects;
 - Further comments received from DOC on the updated Biosecurity and Vegetation Management Plan, relating to specific trigger levels for adaptive management, Nova informed DOC that these are under consideration and Nova will respond.
- Discussion with MDC regarding their landscape peer review and providing the landscape cumulative effects assessment.
- Nova welcomes ongoing engagement with all s53 parties, adjacent landowners and other stakeholders.

Proposed site visit details

- Site visit scheduled for Thursday 24 September;
- Nova to facilitate all Panel requirements and ensure an independent Panel assessment of the site and the proposal;
- Nova has provided a proposed run sheet, subject to the Panel's specific requirements.



Figure 3.2: Existing access point to SH 8 (base image source: Google Maps, 2023)