

5th May 2026

Generation Development Lead
Nova Energy

Meridian Energy Consultation Summary – Nova Energy Limited - Twizel Solar Project

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the substantive application being prepared by Nova Energy Limited referred to as the 'Twizel Solar Project' for the Fast Track Approvals Act.

Meridian Energy Limited (Meridian) notes that the proposed solar farm is positioned alongside Meridian's land at 6119 Tekapo-Twizel Road (Lot 1 DP 341333) and located within the Mackenzie District Council Hydro Inundation Hazard Overlay. Meridian's interest in the project is associated with the Hydro Inundation Hazard Overlay.

The Hydro Inundation Hazard Overlay represents areas that could be flooded in the unlikely event of failure of any of the dams and canals associated with the Waitaki Power Scheme. While the likelihood of a structural failure of a dam or canal is very low, the consequences could be serious for people, property and the environment.

Meridian's primary priority in relation to development within the Hydro Inundation Hazard Overlay is the safety of people. Meridian is concerned about development that increases the population at risk. Closely linked to this is the time between a potential breach and flood arrival, as this directly influences emergency response, evacuation feasibility, and risk to life. Finally, Meridian places priority on the implications such development may have for dam safety management. Increased population exposure can necessitate changes to dam safety classification and management practices, including more stringent monitoring, assessment, and potential infrastructure upgrades.

Meridian engaged Damwatch Ltd Engineering to undertake modelling for the potential dam-break flood hazard at the proposed solar project site.

Meridian has reviewed the proposed development in line with the modelling and acknowledges the low population at risk in this development. However, Meridian requests that placement of 'gathering buildings' (i.e. operational and maintenance buildings) occurs outside the greater inundation depths of the modelling for the site.

Notwithstanding the above, Meridian highlights that development within the Hydro Inundation Hazard Overlay inherently carries residual risks to people, property (assets) and the environment, and that parts of the site may be subject to inundation in the unlikely event of an uncontrolled release of water from the Waitaki Power Scheme.

The modelling has indicated an initial flood arrival time (for a Pukaki Canal breach scenario) at the site is 2hours 30mins with a peak arrival time of 2hours 55mins. Meridian acknowledges that this flood arrival time will allow individuals on the site the opportunity of excavation.

Meridian and Nova have agreed that a condition of consent requiring an emergency response plan and evacuation guide for this hazard at this site, so that risk to people and assets is minimised in the event of an emergency. Meridian supports the inclusion of the following condition:

The consent holder must, in consultation with Meridian Energy Limited, prepare, implement and maintain a current Emergency Hydro Inundation Response and Evacuation Plan for that part of the site subject to the Hydro Inundation Hazard Overlay in the Operative Mackenzie District Plan (or such replacement) for the purposes of minimising the risk to life and property (including assets) that may arise from the uncontrolled release of water from the Waitaki Power Scheme. The Emergency Hydro Inundation Response and Evacuation Plan must be provided to the Planning Manager, Mackenzie District Council prior to construction beginning on

the site, and any subsequent updates of that Plan must be provided within 3 months of an update being finalised.

In conclusion, Meridian requests that maintenance and operational buildings associated with the proposed use of the site are located outside areas subject to inundation depths of 0.25 metres or greater as identified in the modelling, and that the above emergency response condition is imposed on any Mackenzie District Council land use consent for the Twizel Solar Project.

Yours Sincerely,

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