



Appendix C Section 30 Notice

Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 Substantive Application

Hinuera Solar Farm

Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited

SLR Project No.: 880.016894.00001

19 August 2026



13 July 2026

Harmony Energy NZ Ltd
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Via email: [REDACTED]

Kia ora | Hello Emily

FTA065 – Fast Track Harmony Hinuera Solar Farm: S124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the RMA and compliance with WRP Permitted Activity Rules 3.5.11.4 and 3.5.11.5

Thank you for the opportunity to consider the revised draft documentation that will support Harmony Energy NZ Limited's (Harmony Energy) substantive application and the written notice of the application being lodged with the EPA in 20+ working days, received on 26 June 2026. The Waikato Regional Council's formal reply is set out in the sections that follow.

Existing resource consents for the same activity using the same resource to which S124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the RMA apply

WRC can confirm that as of the date of this response, there are no competing applications or existing resource consents to which section 124C(1)(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) would apply if the approvals sought were to be applied for as a resource consent under that Act. Further, WRC can confirm that 165ZI of the RMA does not apply because the proposed project is not located in the common marine and coastal area in accordance with the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan (proposed or operative).

Compliance with WRP Permitted Activity Rules 3.5.11.4 and 3.5.11.5

Thank you for providing an opportunity to review Harmony Energy NZ Limited's (Harmony Energy) revised Waikato Regional Plan (WRP) rules assessment. In short, WRC does not agree with the Harmony Energy position that there are no high risk facilities, as sub-components, of the grid scale solar farm. The high risk facility table detailed in WRP 3.5.12 includes 'mechanical workshops', which is analogous to an operations and maintenance facility, in that it will use and handle large volumes of oils and other petroleum products. Additionally, the primary transformers onsite will undergo maintenance and re-oiling over the 35 year consent duration sought. Accordingly, the advice previously provided to Harmony Energy in WRC's letter dated 20 May 2026 still stands (refer Doc # 36030883). For ease of reference, details of appropriate oil-water interceptors remain to be provided by Harmony Energy to confirm compliance with both WRP permitted activity rules 3.5.11.4 and 3.5.11.5.

High risk facilities definition aside, we also note that WRP rule 3.5.11.4 includes the following condition:

"f. The discharge shall not contain any material which will cause the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable suspended materials at any point downstream that is a distance greater than three times the width of the stream at the point of discharge." [Emphasis added]

The condition is derived from section 107(1) effect matters specified in the RMA.

As you will be aware, hydrocarbons are hydrophobic and immiscible, so bunding alone, as detailed in Appendix B of the draft Hazardous Substance and Site Safety Management Plan, will not prevent the discharge of conspicuous oil films under all operational circumstances from the proposed stormwater system, particularly in the context of bunded transformers. The incorporation of oil-water interceptors is essential in such installations to achieving compliance with the highlighted condition and represents industry best practice.

As the above matters remain to be resolved, and as a contingency, it is our recommendation that Harmony Energy considers including an application for a stormwater discharge permit to water and/or into or onto land in accordance with WRP 3.5.11.8 Discretionary Activity Rule - Discharge to Stormwater. This will ensure that all regional activities are applied for as part of the lodged substantive application. The application activity could then be withdrawn post-lodgement if compliance with 3.5.11.4 and 3.5.11.5 is adequately demonstrated via the Fast-track process.

Should you require any further information with regard to the above, please contact me on [REDACTED] or email at [REDACTED]. If responding in writing, please quote application number APP147622.

Ngā mihi | Kind regards



AnaMaria d'Aubert
Manager – Regional Consents
Resource Use