

# Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform  
Minister of Transport  
Leader of the House  
Associate Minister of Finance  
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



FTAA-2508-1095

Ian Gordon  
Fast-track Expert Panel Chair  
substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Ian,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on Contact Energy Limited's Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) substantive application, the Southland Wind Farm project (FTAA-2508-1095). I am responding in my capacity as Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and Minister for Infrastructure.

Infrastructure is important for growth and prosperity and renewable electricity generation is priority infrastructure. Our view is our planning system has not been enabling of growth, hence the establishment of the FTAA. I have my attached my comments relating to the Southland Wind Farm in Appendix 1

I wish to take this opportunity to express my broad support for projects which deliver positive outcomes for New Zealand. Please take this letter of support as a reflection of the Government's economic growth and infrastructure priorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop  
**Minister Responsible for RMA Reform**  
**Minister for Infrastructure**

## **Appendix 1 – Comments on the Southland Wind Farm project – FTAA-2508-1095**

### ***National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011***

The proposal is consistent with the objective and policies of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011, particularly in relation to the benefits of displacing greenhouse gas emissions and maintaining or increasing electricity security. The application suggests the benefits could be significant for Southland and New Zealand, including renewable electricity generation to power up to 150,000 homes annually. The amount of additional renewable electricity generation will support the Government's target to double renewable electricity generation by 2050.

The Government will soon issue an update to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation, with which this proposal is consistent.

### ***National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008***

The proposal is consistent with the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008, especially with respect to enabling electricity transmission to facilitate significant renewable electricity generation to connect to the National Grid for the benefit of households and businesses around New Zealand. The Government will soon issue a National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks, with which this proposal is consistent.

### ***National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 & National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020***

Based on the information provided, I note the proposal may not be consistent with the aquatic offsetting and compensation principles of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. However, I understand the panel will consider all information available to them in order to inform their decision.