

Tim Grace

From: Sara Westcott s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Tim Grace
Cc: Dion Cowley
Subject: RE: Horizons Regional Council - Rangitikei Solar Farm - Fast track Approvals Act 2024 (as amended by the Fast track Approvals Amendment Act 2025) - Section 11(1) Notice

Hi Tim,

Thank you for your email notifying your intention to apply for a referral application for the Rangitikei Solar Farm under section 11(1) of the Fast Track Approvals Act and your request for any comment Horizons wishes to make at this time.

We have reviewed the documents that you have provided and have the following comments to make. We note that these comments speak more to the future contents of any substantive application lodged, but hopefully this provides some assistance as requested.

River Management – Flooding Effects and Scheme Assets/Operations

Ms Julia Jung, Team Leader Investigations and Design for Horizons Regional Council has reviewed the documents and has advised:

1. The application appears reasonable as long as any flood and erosion effects are not increased for the post development including the scheme assets and their operations.
2. The documents have considered the flood hazard effects and mitigations at a high-level, but she has noted:
 - a. The application includes that avoidance of development for critical infrastructure and restriction for solar panels placement. We note that the NPS-NH sets out the area for avoidance. The proposed area may avoid ‘very high’ hazard, but the applicant should include this assessment if the proposed area avoids the ‘very high’ flood hazard risk during likely event (> 2% AEP).
 - b. The effect of ‘*Possibility of post development flows increasing beyond predevelopment flows*’ is listed, but there is no specific mitigation comment for dam operation. The application should demonstrate that the dam capacity, and spillway operation will not be compromised post development.
 - c. The scheme operational function requires site access for maintenance works. The application should demonstrate that access to the scheme assets are maintained.

Terrestrial Ecology

Mr James Lambie, Horizons consultant terrestrial ecologist has made the following comments:

1. There are extensive NPS-FM wetland issues noted. It looks like there might be potential for One Plan Schedule 6 wetlands in places already indicated as being avoided / avoidable (in the land owner retention areas). It would be helpful for the investigation to look into how effects on other natural inland wetlands could be avoided as they seem to be throughout. If loss is not avoidable, this may result in the activity status being Non-Complying which may have

implications for the application and assessment. Horizons will be reviewing impacts on wetlands and any loss carefully. In reviewing the plans, there appears to be potential/opportunity within the broader property for biodiversity gains to offset loss of wetland extent.

2. Possibility of native bat and bird issues noted. We anticipate these can be addressed as anticipated / probably not difficult issues to traverse. The application will need to think a bit about collision potential and how to measure and monitor that.
3. Lizards and invertebrates are not highlighted as issues, likely because they have not been identified as high risk issues. However, these need to be looked at as not addressing the potential presence and possible strategies to limit effects to no more than minor will leave a notable information gap.

Instream Ecology

Ms Laura Hickey, Environmental Scientist for Horizons Regional Council has made the following comments:

Access tracks

Please ensure any application include details of any stream crossings, including existing and new. Any new crossings should include information on fish passage, how the design fits with the NES-F conditions, and have regard for the NZFPGs.

Waterway classifications

Please ensure any meaningful waterway delineations are backed up with evidence and justification. The documents provided mentions intermittent waterways and artificial ponds, further information on these classifications to help inform the effects assessment and applicant consenting requirements/rule status will be needed. Furthermore, if any ephemeral flow paths have been identified, confirmation of their status may be needed i.e. ephemeral vs intermittent classification.

Other

Specific details of mitigation measures mentioned such as riparian planting will also be needed.

Erosion and Sediment Control/Contaminated Land

Mr Stuart Wright, Senior Consents Monitoring Officer has reviewed the information and has made the following comments:

1. This project appears to be at a high level, largely similar to the large North Foxton solar farm project. Nothing significant or particularly concerning at this stage.
2. The main impacts that to focus on would include:
 - Potential impacts to water ways from work in or near streams, e.g. culvert installations or upgrades. There appears to be more potential for interaction with water courses on this project compared with North Foxton. The soils are also less likely to be as free draining. Therefore, I would expect greater consideration regarding erosion and sediment controls when it comes to that stage.
 - Consideration for water takes if the need/demand for water exceeds what is readily available for construction works.
 - It would be interesting to know what piling method they will be using (if known at this stage), as this may inform the level of land disturbance and water demand - e.g.: are the piles driven straight in from the surface or could they dig or auger lots of small excavations which are backfilled with concrete.

- Potential for localised contaminated land from activities such as former sheep dips, farm dumps or bulk chemical storage. Therefore, it is expected that a PSI is undertaken as part of the application process and potentially a targeted DSI is undertaken either as part of the application process or as a condition of the consent.

Planning/Other Matters

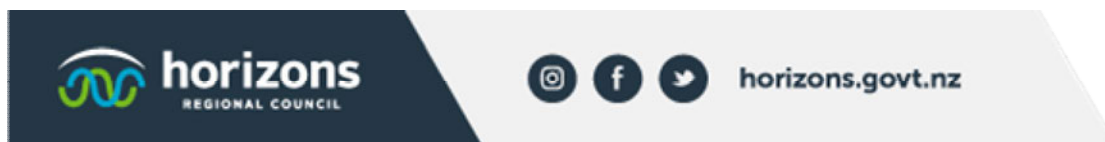
1. One Plan Schedule 2 values – I note that with respect to the Schedule 2 ‘Flood Control and Drainage’ value, this applies to the mainstem of the Tutaenui Stream and to the dam identified in the plans (known as ‘Tutaenui Dam E4’). While the online maps do not show the dam as holding this Schedule 2 value, Table 34 in Schedule 2 shows this in the ‘Rang_4d’ section of the Flood Control and Drainage. This means that in addition to consideration of the designation under the Rangitikei District Plan, consideration against LF-AWBD-R68 will be required for works in proximity to the dam.
2. With respect to iwi, our records show that this site is located within the rohe of Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.

With respect to the anticipated date of lodgement of the substantive application, and the statutory 20 working day notification, Horizons is happy to discuss any elements of the application in a pre-application type manner prior to that notice period and throughout the fast-track process. We have found that good communication and discussions around elements of the application prior to lodgement helps in making the fast-track process smoother.

If you have any questions regarding the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

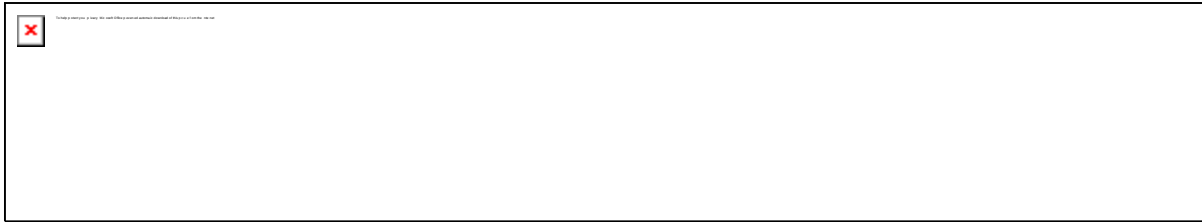
Nga mihi nui,

SARA WESTCOTT (*she/her*) | Kaiārahi Ngā Whakaaetanga | Team Leader Consents
s 9(2)(a) | s 9(2)(a) | Horizons Regional Council | 0508 800 800



For general planning enquiries, please email the Consents Team via consents.enquiries@horizons.govt.nz

From: Tim Grace s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2026 4:03 pm
To: Help <help@horizons.govt.nz>; Consents Enquiries <ConsentsEnquiries@horizons.govt.nz>; Sara Westcott s 9(2)(a)
Cc: Dion Cowley s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Horizons Regional Council - Rangitikei Solar Farm - Fast track Approvals Act 2024 (as amended by the Fast track Approvals Amendment Act 2025) - Section 11(1) Notice



Tēnā koe,

This Email serves as formal notification under section 11(1) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (as amended by the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025) in relation to an intended Referral Application by FRV Services New Zealand Limited (FRV).

FRV proposes to construct, operate, and—if required—decommission a utility-scale solar farm on approximately 500 hectares of rural land near Marton in the Rangitikei District. A summary of the project and supporting material is enclosed for your information.

Under section 11(1)(c), you are invited to provide any written response to this notice within 20 working days of receiving it. Accordingly, we request that any comments be provided no later than 5th May 2026.

As permitted by the recent amendments to the FTAA, this notice fulfils the required notification step for a Referral Application. If you choose to provide comments, FRV will prepare a summary of how those responses have informed the development of the project for inclusion in the Referral Application, as required under the updated fast-track process.

At this stage, FRV is continuing to refine the design of the proposed solar farm as part of the project's planning phase. Should the Minister decide to accept the Referral Application, FRV anticipates lodging the Substantive Application in November 2026.

FRV would be pleased to engage with you further during the statutory 20-working-day notification period to support an informed response.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact:

Dion Cowley
Head of Project Development – New Zealand
T: s 9(2)(a)
E: s 9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi nui,

Tim Grace
On behalf FRV Services New Zealand Limited

Tim Grace
Technical Director - Planning

O s 9(2)(a)
M s 9(2)(a)
E s 9(2)(a)

SLR Consulting New Zealand Limited
201 Victoria Street West, Auckland, New Zealand 1010

This e-mail is intended only for the addressee. Its use is limited to that intended by the author at the time and it is not to be distributed without the author's consent. Unless otherwise stated, SLR accepts no liability for the contents of this e-mail except where subsequently confirmed in writing. The opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of SLR. This e-mail may be subject to a claim of legal privilege.

SLR is committed to the responsible and ethical use of relevant technologies including artificial intelligence (AI). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the author and delete this message immediately.

This email is covered by the disclaimers which can be found here:
<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/about-our-region-and-council/terms-conditions>