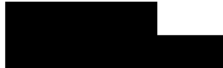


Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Resources
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Energy



12 December 2025



Fast-track Team
Substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

RE: Fast-track Approvals Act substantive application – Southland Wind Farm project, FTAA-2508-1095

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Contact Energy's application under the Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA 2024) for the Southland Wind Farm project.

I have considered the application for the Southland Wind Farm project and its alignment with the priorities of my Regional Development portfolio. My comments are attached as Annex One.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Shane Jones'.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Development

Annex One – Regional Development comments

Project overview

1. The Southland Wind Farm project proposes to construct and operate a wind farm comprising up to 55 wind turbines in Southland. Public media items suggest the proposed wind farm could be one of the largest of its kind in New Zealand. I note reports from March 2025 of the project being declined consent through a previous application process.
2. I have previously provided comment on the referral application for this project, and while the high-level project scope for the substantive application appears to be unchanged, some of the outcome estimates provided for the referral application have been updated. For example, the project is now estimated to generate approximately 230-380 megawatts depending on turbine model (previously 250-350 megawatts), and the additional revenue generated from project construction is estimated to be \$258-426 million, creating 184-304 FTE jobs (previously \$230-280 million, primarily from construction and 80-120 jobs annually).

Comments – Regional Development portfolio

3. I consider that the updated estimates continue to indicate the project could offer notable economic benefit to the Southland region.
4. I also consider that the significance of the infrastructure would likely come from the opportunity it provides to attract and support wider investment and industry, for example ongoing discussions of a large data centre near Invercargill which would require significant energy input. In this regard, the proposed infrastructure could become both regionally and nationally significant.
5. Any comment on the project's impact on the energy system should come from the Minister for Energy.