

17 December 2025

The Expert Panel
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
C/O Environmental Protection Authority
Level 10, 215 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6011

RE: FTAA-2508-1095 – Southland Wind Farm invite to the Minister for the Environment to comment on draft conditions

To the Panel,

I am writing in response to your invitation to provide comments on the draft conditions for Southland Wind Farm substantive application under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) that is currently under consideration.

As the Associate Minister for the Environment, I have delegated statutory functions and responsibilities under the Resource Management Act, the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ), the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 as well as the Environment Act 1986. I consider s6 of the RMA and national direction including the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPS-IB) and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) are of particular relevance to the proposed application.

As part of its decision making, the panel needs to consider how and to what extent the adverse impacts of the proposal can be managed. I note that the applicant has agreed undertake off-site restoration of a wetland on an adjoining site as compensation for the permanent loss of up to 2.5ha of wetland on the site which cannot be offset. My view is the expert panel should ensure that the total area of restored wetlands matches or exceeds the area lost. This is consistent with government's no net loss biodiversity goal.

Should you decide to grant the consent, the response to offset and compensate should ensure conditions reflect, over the long term, as accurately as possible an assessment of the values being impacted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this application.

Ngā mihi



Hon Andrew Hoggard
Associate Minister for the Environment