

**3 July 2023**

## **NZX Announcement**

**For immediate release**

### **NZ WINDFARMS LIMITED: AOKAUTERE EXPANSION PROJECT REFERRED TO EXPERT CONSENTING PANEL UNDER THE COVID-19 RECOVERY (FAST-TRACK CONSENTING) ACT 2020**

On 9 June 2023, NZ Windfarms announced that the Minister for the Environment, the Hon David Parker, had decided to accept the Company's application to refer the Aokautere Expansion Project (**Project**) to an expert consenting panel (**Panel**) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (**FTCA**).

This announcement was conditional on receiving an Order in Council for the Project. NZ Windfarms is pleased to announce that it has received the Order in Council to have the project referred to a Panel for consideration under the FTCA. The Order in Council is attached to the pdf version of the NZX release.

Importantly, the Minister's decision to refer the Project to a Panel under the FTCA, should not be taken as an indication or direction that resource consents will be granted. Additionally, the referral decision does not in any way endorse any related planning decisions that may affect the Project.

The Aokautere Expansion Project to install up to nine wind turbines on neighbouring land is **separate for consenting purposes** to the recently approved Te Rere Hau Repowering Project to decommission the existing fleet and install up to thirty new wind turbines on the current site.

The Aokautere Expansion Project could have a capacity of 37.8MW and comprises up to 9 x 4.2MW modern three-bladed wind turbines producing approximately 170 GWh per annum. That is enough renewable energy to power 23,000 average kiwi households or to charge 75,800 electric vehicles.

Mr Warren Koia, NZ Windfarms Chief Executive says "Our priority will be consultation with Iwi, the local community and stakeholders to finalise the design and layout, assess environmental effects, and develop a fast-track resource consent application. Once these steps are completed, we will submit an application to the EPA for consideration by a Panel under the transitory provisions of the FTCA. We anticipate this application to be submitted later this calendar year".

For further information, contact Warren Koia, Chief Executive, by phone on 06 280 2773, or by email at [info@nzwindfarms.co.nz](mailto:info@nzwindfarms.co.nz).

Ngā mihi | Thank you

**Craig Stobo**  
**Chairman**

**Attachment**

1. COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects - Amendment Order 2023, Schedule 91 - Te Rere Hau Wind Farm – Aokautere Extension

**About NZ Windfarms Limited**

NZ Windfarms Ltd is a long-term specialist wind farm owner and operator, with its revenue coming from the sale of sustainably generated electricity from its Te Rere Hau wind farm.

The Te Rere Hau wind farm is located on North Range Road in the Taranaki Ranges outside of Palmerston North. The wind farm has 92 turbines with a capacity of 46 MW producing enough clean energy to power about 16,000 homes, or in excess of half the households in Palmerston North. In comparison to generate the same amount of energy, a gas-fired power plant would emit roughly 64,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the same as an additional 23,000 cars on the road.

NZ Windfarms Ltd (NWF) is a public company listed on the NZ Stock Exchange. Up to date share trading information can be obtained from the NZX website.



# **COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023**

Cindy Kiro, Governor-General

## **Order in Council**

At Wellington this 26th day of June 2023

Present:

The Hon Carmel Sepuloni presiding in Council

This order is made under section 27 of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council and on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment.

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## Order

### 1 Title

This order is the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects (Taheke Geothermal Project and Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Extension) Amendment Order 2023.

### 2 Commencement

This order comes into force on 29 June 2023.

### 3 Principal order

This order amends the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Order 2020.

### 4 New schedules inserted

After the last schedule,—

- (a) insert the schedules set out in the Schedule of this order; and
- (b) make all necessary consequential amendments.

## Schedule 91

### Te Rere Hau Wind Farm—Aokautere Extension

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*Project referred to expert consenting panel*

#### 1 Name of project

The name of the project is the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm—Aokautere Extension (the **project**).

#### 2 Authorised person

The authorised person for the project is NZ Windfarms Limited.

#### 3 Description of project

The scope of the project is to do the following on land at Aokautere, Palmerston North:

- (a) further expand the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm by—
  - (i) installing up to 9 triple-bladed turbines that will stand up to 162 metres high; and
  - (ii) installing or constructing other infrastructure and structures, including transmission lines that are connected to a switchyard for the purpose of supplying electricity to the national grid:
- (b) remove 8 turbines from the wind farm:
- (c) widen and upgrade roads:
- (d) construct, upgrade, and widen other accessways for vehicles.

#### 4 Description of activities involved in project

The project may involve the following activities:

- (a) removing vegetation:
- (b) carrying out earthworks:
- (c) removing infrastructure, including the existing turbines:
- (d) discharging stormwater (which may contain contaminants) onto land:
- (e) taking and diverting groundwater and discharging it onto land:
- (f) constructing and installing infrastructure or structures, including—
  - (i) hardstand areas; and
  - (ii) foundations and building pads; and
  - (iii) turbines; and
  - (iv) transmission lines; and
  - (v) culverts:

- (g) widening and upgrading roads:
- (h) constructing, widening, and upgrading other accessways for vehicles:
- (i) carrying out any other activities that are—
  - (i) associated with the activities described in paragraphs (a) to (h); and
  - (ii) within the scope of the project as described in clause 3 of this schedule.

## **5 Approximate geographical location**

The project will occur on the following land at Aokautere, Palmerston North:

- (a) land at Forest Hill Road that is comprised in—
  - (i) Section 27 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (ii) Section 34 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (iii) Section 25 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (iv) Section 22 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (v) Section 3 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (vi) Section 5 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (vii) Section 7 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (viii) Section 2 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (ix) Subdivision 3 Sec 26 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (x) Section 36 Block I Mangahao SD; and
  - (xi) Section 18 Block II Mangahao SD; and
  - (xii) Part Section 363 Town of Fitzherbert; and
  - (xiii) Section 2 SO 556274;
- (b) the road reserve of North Range Road.

## **6 Persons who must be invited to comment on project**

- (1) The panel must invite comments on any consent application relating to the project from the following persons (in addition to the persons listed in clause 17(6) of Schedule 6 of the Act):
  - (a) the Minister of Energy and Resources;
  - (b) the New Zealand Transport Agency;
  - (c) Transpower New Zealand Limited;
  - (d) Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated.
- (2) To avoid doubt, a person or persons referred to in subclause (1) includes anyone who is appointed to represent the person or persons in any material respect

(for example, anyone appointed as the appropriate contact for matters relating to the Resource Management Act 1991).

**7 No further provision required**

No further provision is necessary to give effect to decisions made by the Minister under section 24 of the Act in respect of the project.

*Statement of reasons*

*This statement of reasons is published for the purposes of clause 4 of Schedule 3 of the Act*

The Minister for the Environment (the **Minister**) has accepted this application for referral. The Minister considered the application against the criteria in the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the **Act**) and the Act's purpose, and sought and considered written comments from the following:

- the relevant Ministers listed in section 21(6) of the Act:
- the Minister of Energy and Resources:
- Palmerston North City Council:
- Manawatū–Whanganui Regional Council:
- Tararua District Council:
- Transpower New Zealand Limited.

The Minister has accepted this application for the following reasons:

- the project will help to achieve the purpose of the Act because—
  - it has the potential to generate approximately 271 full-time equivalent jobs (**FTE jobs**) during construction and 30 ongoing FTE jobs after construction is completed; and
  - it has the potential to provide infrastructure to improve economic, employment and environmental outcomes; and
  - it has the potential to contribute to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and to transition more quickly to a low emissions economy; and
  - it is likely to progress faster than would otherwise be the case under the Resource Management Act 1991 standard processes:
- any actual and potential effects on the environment, and proposed measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for any adverse effects, can be appropriately tested by an expert consenting panel against Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the purpose of the Act.

Diana Hawker,  
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

## Explanatory note

*This note is not part of the order; but is intended to indicate its general effect.*

This order, which comes into force on 29 June 2023, amends the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Order 2020. The effect of the amendment is to refer 2 projects to expert consenting panels for the purpose of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the **Act**). The referred projects are the projects named and described in *new Schedules 90 and 91*.

The effect of the referral is—

- to authorise Roopu Whakarite Mahi Limited Partnership to apply under the Act, instead of under the Resource Management Act 1991, for resource consents relating to the project described in *new Schedule 90*; and
- to authorise NZ Windfarms Limited to apply under the Act, instead of under the Resource Management Act 1991, for resource consents relating to the project described in *new Schedule 91*.

The expert consenting panels will be appointed under Schedule 5 of the Act and make decisions in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Act.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 27 June 2023.

This order is administered by the Ministry for the Environment.