

21 April 2022

NZX Announcement

For immediate release

NZ WINDFARMS LIMITED: TE RERE HAU REPOWER PROJECT REFERRED TO EXPERT CONSENTING PANEL UNDER THE COVID-19 RECOVERY (FAST-TRACK CONSENTING) ACT 2020

On 25 March 2022, the Company announced that the Minister for the Environment, the Hon David Parker, had decided to accept the Company's application to refer the Te Rere Hau wind farm repowering 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. This 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.

Mr Warren Koia NZ Windfarms Chief Executive says "The next steps in the process will be the continuation of consultation with affected parties, the community, iwi and stakeholders, finalisation of the proposed design and layout and the development of a resource consent application and assessment of environmental effects. Once that is complete the Company will be able to file an application with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to have its resource consent application considered by a Panel under the FTCA. An application could occur later in the year".

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

Nga mihi nui | Thank you

Craig Stobo
Chairman

Attachment

1. COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022, Schedule 50 Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering

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 Tararua 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 Amendment Order (No 8) 2022

Cindy Kiro, Governor-General

Order in Council

At Wellington this 19th day of April 2022

Present:

Her Excellency the Governor-General 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.

Contents

		Page
1	Title	1
2	Commencement	2
3	Principal order	2
4	New Schedule 50 inserted	2
	Schedule	3
	New Schedule 50 inserted	

Order

1 Title

This order is the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022.

2 Commencement

This order comes into force on 22 April 2022.

3 Principal order

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

4 New Schedule 50 inserted

After Schedule 49, insert the Schedule 50 set out in the Schedule of this order.

Schedule
New Schedule 50 inserted

cl 4

Schedule 50
Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering

cl 5

Project referred to expert consenting panel

1 Name of project

The name of the project is the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering (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 redevelop and expand the existing Te Rere Hau wind farm by—

- (a) removing 97 2-blade, 47-metre-high turbines; and
- (b) installing 30 3-blade, 162-metre-high turbines; and
- (c) constructing associated infrastructure, including—
 - (i) upgrading the existing underground transmission line connecting the wind farm to the national electricity grid; or
 - (ii) installing a new overhead transmission line.

4 Description of activities involved in project

The project may involve the following activities:

- (a) removing vegetation;
- (b) carrying out earthworks, including earthworks disturbing potentially contaminated soil;
- (c) removing infrastructure, including turbines;
- (d) upgrading existing roads;
- (e) constructing roads and culverts;
- (f) constructing infrastructure, including—
 - (i) hardstand areas; and
 - (ii) foundations and building pads for turbines; and

- (iii) if a new overhead transmission line is installed, electricity transmission structures:
- (g) installing the following equipment:
 - (i) turbines; and
 - (ii) underground electricity transmission cables; and
 - (iii) underground electrical and communication cables; and
 - (iv) substation and grid connection equipment; and
 - (v) if a new transmission line is included, electricity transmission structures, overhead electricity transmission conductors, and associated infrastructure:
- (h) taking and diverting surface water and groundwater:
- (i) discharging stormwater (which may contain contaminants) onto land:
- (j) carrying out any other activities that are—
 - (i) associated with the activities described in paragraphs (a) to (i); 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 ridgelines of the Tararua Range north of the Pahiatua Aokautere Road, approximately 11 kilometres south-east of Palmerston North.

6 Further information to be submitted

The following information must be submitted to the panel with any consent application relating to the project (in addition to the information required by clause 9 of Schedule 6 of the Act):

- (a) a visual assessment of the landscape from the west and east of the Tararua Range, including visual depictions of the new turbines and of any overhead transmission structures and conductors to be installed; and
- (b) an assessment of options to mitigate the effects of the project workforce on the local housing market; and
- (c) a detailed ecological assessment, including—
 - (i) an analysis of the effects of the project on birds, including—
 - (A) any cumulative effects; and
 - (B) any effects arising from the size of the turbines; and
 - (C) any effects arising from the rotation speed of the turbines; and
 - (D) any acoustic effects; and
 - (ii) a draft bird collision monitoring programme; and

- (iii) a lizard survey report that includes—
 - (A) an assessment of any effects of the project on lizards; and
 - (B) a draft lizard management plan; and
- (d) an acoustic assessment that includes—
 - (i) an assessment of the effects of construction and operational noise on the amenity of nearby dwellings compared with existing noise levels, and a description of any proposed mitigation measures; and
 - (ii) a description of methods for monitoring and reporting operational noise and vibration; and
 - (iii) a description of how noise complaints will be reported on and responded to; and
- (e) an integrated transport assessment that—
 - (i) identifies and addresses the effects of additional traffic on the road network during construction, including the effects on road safety and maintenance; and
 - (ii) identifies how works required to repair construction damage to roads will be funded; and
 - (iii) includes information about discussions held, and agreements made, between NZ Windfarms Limited and Palmerston North City Council.

7 Persons who must be invited to comment on project

An expert consenting 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; and
- (b) Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated; and
- (c) Transpower New Zealand Limited.

8 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 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 relevant Ministers, the Tararua District Council, the

Palmerston North City Council, the Horizons Regional Council, and 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:
- the project will provide infrastructure to improve economic, employment and environmental outcomes:
- the project will generate employment by providing approximately 197 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over a 3-year construction period, and 40 ongoing direct FTE jobs once construction is complete:
- the project will contribute to New Zealand's efforts to mitigate climate change and to transition more quickly to an economy of low greenhouse gas emissions by increasing New Zealand's total amount of renewable energy generation:
- the project 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.

Rachel Hayward,
acting for 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 22 April 2022, amends the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred Projects Order 2020. The effect of the amendment is to refer a project to an expert consenting panel for the purpose of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the **Act**). The referred project is the project named and described in *new Schedule 50*.

The effect of the referral is 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 50*.

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

2022/118

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Referred
Projects Amendment Order (No 8) 2022**

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 21 April 2022.

This order is administered by the Ministry for the Environment.

Wellington, New Zealand:

Published under the authority of the New Zealand Government—2022