

24 October 2023



Williamson Water and Land
Advisory Limited
Attn To: Laila Alkamil
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Tēnā koe Laila Alkamil

Request for Further Information

Response required by: 14 November 2023
Record Number/s: CRC240932 – CRC240933
Applicant Name: Far North Solar Farm Limited
Activity Description: to discharge operational phase stormwater to land; and
to discharge construction phase stormwater to land

As you are aware, Reuben Herz-Edinger has been processing the above resource consent application.

The information listed in Attachment 1 to this letter is hereby requested under Section 92 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA). As this information is required in order to fully understand the actual and potential effects of the proposal, we are unable to further process the application until it has been supplied.

The options available to you under Section 92A(1) of the RMA are summarised below. A response is required by 14 November 2023. You must choose one of these options.

A. Supply the requested information by 14 November 2023

If the information can be easily collated and supplied by this date, please provide it in writing (via email is fine) to Reuben Herz-Edinger.

B. Agree in a written notice by 14 November 2023 to supply the information requested

Sometimes technical information will take some time to collate or key contacts may not be immediately available. If you need more time to supply the information requested, please advise Reuben Herz-Edinger in writing when you can provide the information. You can do this via email or letter.

C. Refuse in a written notice by 14 November 2023 to supply the requested information

If you choose not to provide the requested information by the above date, or any date subsequently agreed to by the Canterbury Regional Council, then your application must be publicly notified and may be declined.

Public notification enables any member of the public, including potentially affected parties, to submit on your proposal. If submission/s are received on your application, then you can expect a hearing to be held. Information on [the notification process](#) and on the [likely costs](#) for notification and a hearing can be found on our website.

Please contact Reuben Herz-Edinger via email (reuben.herz-edinger@ecan.govt.nz) or phone (03 367 7172) if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi



Richard Purdon

Principal Consents Planner

cc:

Far North Solar Farm Limited
Attn To: Richard Homewood
Level 1, 65 Main Road
Kumeu
Auckland 0810

ATTACHMENT 1

Information Requested under Section 92 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Application Number/s: CRC240932 – CRC240933

1. Description of Ecology of the Site

The applicant does not contain a description of the ecology of the site, nor a description of any potential effects to ecology at the site.

- a. Please provide a description of the existing ecology at the site, including (but not limited to) specific descriptions of:
 - i. Potential lizard habitats within the development area.
 - ii. Areas surrounding developed pasture, including areas adjacent to scarps/river terraces.
 - iii. Areas referenced as Channel A and Channel B in the Stormwater Assessment.
 - iv. Existing ecological values within the proposed landscape amenity planting area.
- b. Please provide an assessment of the ecological significance of any areas potentially affected by stormwater runoff against the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement criteria for significance.
- c. Please provide a description of any potential effects of the proposal on the ecology of the site.

2. Description of Methodology for Cleaning Solar Panels

There exist a variety of techniques for cleaning solar panels. Some of these techniques include the use of detergents/cleaning chemicals, which would form part of the runoff at the site, and may require further assessment.

- a. Please provide a description of the methodology to be used for cleaning solar panel arrays at the site. In this description please include:
 - i. Description of the expected frequency of cleaning.
 - ii. Description of materials to be used (e.g., water quantity, detergent use).
 - iii. Description of any additional discharges generated by cleaning.
- b. If cleaning chemicals of any kind are to be used for operation of the solar farm, please provide an assessment of the discharge of these chemicals under Rule 5.98 of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

3. Description of Solar Panel Arrays

Canterbury Regional Council Contaminated Land science advice requested further information on the composition of the solar panel arrays. Further information on the makeup of the solar panels, as well as their support structures, was requested to better understand potential effects of stormwater runoff from these structures.

- a. Please provide a description of the construction of the solar panel arrays, including materials used for the support structures (including the piles and frame supports).
- b. Please confirm if the solar panels have glass laminate encapsulation.

4. Description of Livestock Grazing

The AEE states that “low scale sheep grazing” would be employed at the site to manage weeds and minimise fire risk. CRC Land Resources advice was that sheep may create high-traffic or ‘camping’ areas which could increase soil compaction and alter the risks for soil erosion and sediment discharges due to stormwater runoff.

- a. Please provide a description of the expected numbers and density of sheep to be grazing within the site.
- b. Please provide an assessment of how sheep behaviour may influence soil compaction and erosion potential from stormwater runoff.

5. Demonstration that Farming Activity at the Site is Allowed

The application states that the site currently grazes cows and sheep, and that sheep grazing would be used at the site to control grass and manage fire risks. However, it is not clear to CRC that such farming activity is currently permitted at the site.

- a. Please confirm that farming activities at the site are allowed either through a resource consent, or through permitted activity rules in the Waitaki sub-regional rules of Section 15B of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

6. Description of Expected Contaminants in Discharge

Section 4.3 of the Stormwater Assessment provides details of the expected temperature and *E. coli* conditions of the discharge. No further description of contaminants expected in the discharge is provided. CRC Contaminated Land and Groundwater scientists have advised that other contaminants may be present in runoff from solar panel arrays.

- a. Please provide a description of expected contaminant concentrations from solar array runoff.

7. Assessment of Hazardous Substances Stored at Site

The application does not include a description of possible hazardous substances that may be stored on site.

- a. Please provide a description of any hazardous substances that may be stored at the site. Please include:
 - i. Description of any hazardous substances contained within infrastructure at the site, e.g., within any inverter units or transformer units (oils, acids etc).
 - ii. Description of any hazardous substances stored on site for other reasons (e.g., cleaning chemicals, fuels, etc).
- b. If hazardous substances will be stored on the site, please provide an assessment of this under the relevant rules of the LWRP (Rules 5.179-5.184).