

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Reference: 2023-0854

30 August 2023

Meridian Energy Limited
C/- Lynley Fletcher
PO Box 10 840
Wellington 6143

Sent via: Lynley.Fletcher@MeridianEnergy.co.nz

Dear Lynley,

MOUNT MUNRO WINDFARM – EKETAHUNA, WAIRARAPA – MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED

Thank you for your request for written approval from Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi). Your proposal has been considered as follows:

Proposal

Resource consent is sought for the following activities:

- To construct, operate and maintain a windfarm over three pastoral farms. The proposal is for up to 20 wind turbines to be established.
- The project will require 10.7km of internal roading network which will require suitable surfacing to enable heavy components to be safely transported.
- A terminal substation is proposed to be located on the western side of the corner of Kaiparoro Road and State Highway 2.
- The project will also require further infrastructure including an internal substation, turbine unity transformers, wind monitoring tower, services, operation and maintenance building, portacom buildings, fuel storage tank and concrete batching plant.

The key transportation requirements of the proposal are as follows. All of the roads in question sit within the Tararua District.

- Initial delivery of earthmoving machinery and ongoing service and maintenance visits;
- Importing aggregate for road basecourse and concrete production;
- Importing water, principally for concrete production and dust control;
- Delivery of equipment, including transformers, for the off-site substation and cables;
- Delivery of other construction materials and consumables to the wind farm site, including reinforcing steel;
- Delivery of electricity circulation and transmission infrastructure including the conductors for the on-site underground cabling and poles for the 4 km line between the site and the substation;
- Transport of over-dimension and overweight turbine components; and
- Regular movement of personnel on site during construction.

Assessment

In assessing the proposed activity, Waka Kotahi notes the following:

- The subject site is located east of State Highway 2, approximately 35km north of Masterton and 4km south of Eketahuna. During construction, site access is proposed via the following roads which intersect with State Highway 2:

- Old Coach Road – main site access during construction and operation
- Kaiparoro Road - access for the construction and maintenance of the off-site substation
- Opaki-Kaiparoro Road – access for the construction and maintenance of the transmission line
- The applicant has provided an assessment of the vehicle movements associated with construction (both light and heavy) and operation. It is understood that there is proposed to be a 32-month construction programme.
- Waka Kotahi understands that the majority of the vehicle movements will be associated with the construction stage of the proposal. It is estimated that the project will require four to eight full time staff to manage the maintenance and operational aspects of the wind farm, of which the associated vehicle movements will be minimal.
- In order to facilitate the heavy vehicle movements association with construction the applicant will need to be undertake improvements to the intersection of Old Coach Road and State Highway 2 (predominantly widening). The works are proposed to be entirely within the road reserve but may require relocation of a swale and street signage on the northeast corner of the intersection. Furthermore, the applicant has identified that additional work is required to understand whether a turn treatment is required, taking into consideration the origin of vehicles to the site. While the applicant has assessed there to be appropriate sight distances for an approaching vehicle to see a turning vehicle at this intersection, there are also some further options to improve safety outcomes at the intersection including temporarily decreasing speeds and truck crossing warning signs on the intersection approach. These are proposed to be considered as part of the Construction Traffic Management Plan process.
- To achieve sight distances to the north of the SH2/Opaki-Kaiparoro Rd intersection the applicant has identified that vegetation removal will be required within the road reserve.
- Overweight and Over-Dimension permits will be required from Waka Kotahi. Approved permits will be required from these authorities prior to transport of overweight or oversize components.

Overall, Waka Kotahi is satisfied with the findings of the Transportation Assessment provided by the applicant. For works within the state highway corridor such as widening or new turning treatments, the applicant will need to provide plans of the upgrades to Waka Kotahi for review and approval. Furthermore, Waka Kotahi expects to be consulted on the drafting of the Construction Traffic Management Plan and for formal approval to be sought through the Corridor Access Request process prior to physical works on the highway.

Conditions

In discussion with Waka Kotahi your clients have agreed to include the following conditions as part of their resource consent application. The legal name of Waka Kotahi is the New Zealand Transport Agency; therefore, our full legal name is referred to in the conditions and approval:

1. Prior to construction, the consent holder shall provide the NZ Transport Agency with the detailed designs for the upgrade of Old Coach Road, to be reviewed and approved by the NZ Transport Agency Network Manager. This should be accompanied by an assessment of whether additional turn treatment at this intersection is required.
2. Prior to construction, the consent holder shall prepare and circulate the Construction Traffic Management Plan to Waka Kotahi for review and acceptance. This should detail how construction traffic will be safely and efficiently managed to and from the subject site along the highway corridor and at Old Coach Road, Kaiparoro Road and Opaki-Kaiparoro Road intersections with State Highway 2.
3. Prior to construction, the consent holder shall undertake vegetation removal at the SH2/Opaki-Kaiparoro Road intersection so that Safe Intersection Sight Distances are achieved to the satisfaction of the NZ Transport Agency Network Manager.

4. Prior to construction, the consent holder shall provide to Council, correspondence from the NZ Transport Agency confirming that works in the State Highway, including vegetation clearance and intersection upgrades have been constructed to the NZ Transport Agency standards.

Determination

On the basis of the above assessment of the proposed activity, and the conditions volunteered by the applicant, Waka Kotahi provides written approval under section 95E of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Advice Notes

Before you undertake any physical work on the state highway you are legally required to apply to the New Zealand Transport Agency for a Corridor Access Request (CAR) and for that request to be approved.

Please submit your CAR to the New Zealand Transport Agency CAR Manager via erin.johnson@nzta.govt.nz a minimum of fourteen working days prior to the commencement of any works on the state highway; longer is advised for complex works.

Expiry of this approval

Unless resource consent has been obtained this approval will expire two years from the date of this approval letter. This approval will lapse at that date unless prior agreement has been obtained from Waka Kotahi.

If you have any queries regarding the above or wish to discuss matters further, please feel free to contact Emily Hunt via email at emily.hunt@nzta.govt.nz or you can contact the environmental planning team at the following email address for future approvals– environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Hunt
Senior Planner

Poutiaki Taiao (Environmental Planning), System Design, on behalf of Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency

Enclosed:

- Attachment 1 and 2: Site Location Plans

