

27 July 2023

To the owner/occupier

Tēnā koe,

NZ Windfarms – The Aokautere Extension Project, a proposed extension of Te Rere Hau Windfarm into the Ernslaw forestry block

We write to you with news of a possible extension of our Te Rere Hau Windfarm into the Ernslaw forestry block – a project we are describing as the Aokautere Extension Project.

Many of you will have heard from us previously about our Repowering Project – which is enabling us to upgrade the infrastructure in our existing Te Rere Hau Windfarm. We provide a brief update of this project below, as well.

Who and where we are

NZ Windfarms are a specialist wind farm owner and operator who sell sustainably generated electricity from our Te Rere Hau wind farm, located on North Range Road in the Tararua Ranges outside of Palmerston North. The area is widely acknowledged as one of the best wind resources in the world. Te Rere Hau wind farm currently has 92 turbines which can generate up to 46MW, producing sufficient electricity to power approximately 16,000 households.

An update on our recent “Repowering Project”

In May 2023, we were granted a Fast-Track consent to repower (in other words, upgrade) our existing Te Rere Hau wind turbines.

Repowering will see our current two-bladed fleet replaced with larger, more efficient three-bladed turbines. The project provides an important pathway for NZ Windfarms to unlock the full potential of its world-class wind resource and increase its renewable energy production. Our aim is to begin work on the Repowering Project in approximately late 2024.

Our proposed Aokautere Extension Project

Recently, a potential opportunity has arisen to extend the Te Rere Hau wind farm footprint to the northwest, into the Ernslaw forestry block. We are calling this the Aokautere Extension Project.

If successful, the Aokautere extension could see up to nine three-bladed turbines added to the fleet.

To take the opportunity further, we need to apply for and be granted resource consent. This involves consultation with neighbours – such as yourselves. We have already begun conversations with mana whenua and Council.

Consenting pathway

As we did with our Repowering Project (www.nzwindfarms.co.nz/repowering), we have sought permission to apply for a fast-track consent under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020. Introduced in 2020, the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 established a new, short-term consenting process to fast-track projects that can boost employment and economic recovery.

It aims to urgently promote employment to support Aotearoa New Zealand's recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19, and to support the certainty of ongoing investment across the country, while promoting sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

In June 2023, NZ Windfarms received confirmation from the office of the Hon Environment Minister David Parker that NZ Windfarms' application for a fast-track consent to extend Te Rere Hau Windfarm could utilise the Referral process under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act 2020. The Minister agreed that the Project meets the referral criteria, in that it has the potential to offer a range of economic, employment, social and environmental benefits, both locally and nationally. These benefits include employment, climate change mitigation and a faster transition to a low-emissions economy. The resource consent application will be referred to and processed by an Expert Consenting Panel which is convened by former Environment Court Judge L. Newhook on behalf of the Environmental Protection Authority.

We are hoping to lodge our consent to extend Te Rere Hau by September 2023.

For more information, we've shared some FAQs on our website here:

www.nzwindfarms.co.nz/extension.

Working with you

As a near neighbour to Te Rere Hau and the proposed Aokautere extension, we are reaching out to let you know about our consent application, to ensure you have plenty of time and opportunity to engage with us on any potential impacts the extension might have on you, your property, and the wider community.

We're committed to open communication and community engagement during this process. In the coming months, we are organising community drop-ins in accessible local locations, where we can discuss this project further, answer any questions and address your concerns. These meetings will provide an opportunity for us to gather valuable input and insights from our neighbours and community members and feedback which we will consider as part of our application.

If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please email us with your name, email and phone number, to: email extension@nzwindfarms.co.nz.

If you don't wish to attend a drop-in, you can also contact us to arrange a 1:1 meeting or phone call, or email us with specific concerns, and we will respond in a timely way.

Indicative time frames

We're working towards a lodgement date of September 2023 for our consent application.

Further information

To learn more about our company and the Windfarm projects we are involved in, please visit our website at www.nzwindfarms.co.nz. If you have any specific questions or inquiries, we encourage you to reach out to us via email at extension@nzwindfarms.co.nz.

We look forward to sharing more updates with you as we progress through this process. Together, we can create a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Warren Koia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Warren Koia

Chief Executive