

Form 33

Notice of person's wish to be party to proceedings

*Section 274, Resource Management Act 1991*

To the Registrar  
Environment Court  
Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch

I, RACHAEL MARY HUGHES, wish to be a party to the following proceedings:

- ENV-2023-WLG-000014
- Far North Solar Farm Limited, South Wairarapa District Council on the establishment and operation of a solar farm at 415 Moroa Road and other roads in/near Greytown, Wairarapa.

I am a person who has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has (by being a close neighbour to the site that will be directly and negatively impacted if consent is granted for this "solar farm" in a rural area) AND a person who made a submission about the subject matter of the proceedings to the original application for this solar farm to South Wairarapa District Council for a discretionary resource consent.

I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of [section 308C](#) or [308CA](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

I am interested in the following particular issues raised by this application to the Environment Court

- Lack of consultation with the local residents surrounding the proposed sites. A lack of consultation with the immediate adjacent neighbours by the proposer- one visit with no information other than a little leaflet. There are at least twelve (12) immediate adjacent neighbours – as in on the boundary. There are at least another ten (10) within close proximity. This submitter's house is within 53m of the back boundary of the proposed site.
- Remediation of land – this proposal does not include any remediation of the land including such aspects as if it becomes uneconomical in the future and is mothballed. If this proposal succeeds, a dedicated fund for remediation should be included as a consent condition.
- Impact on the local residents and wider residents in the Wairarapa and New Zealand on the negative impacts if this solar farm proceeds. These are all known and common issues that relate to these type of industrial solar installations.
  - Heat Islanding in a usually dry, and drought prone area.

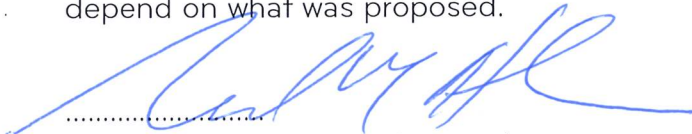
- Height of proposed solar panels at 4.5m is (almost) 2x the height of a standard house stud which will impact on the visual impact of this proposal.
- Impact of height of panels on winds – both as to altering the nature of the winds as well as increasing in noise of that wind crossing the solar panels.
- Soils and soil health issues
- Noise – both due to the panels rotating and due to the collectors.
- Fire and response – overseas sources are showing that fires in solar farms are becoming more common. FENZ does not have a plan for responding to fires in solar farms as such. FENZ's roof-top process is to, essentially, "let it burn". If that was applied to this proposed site, the impact on local residents would be very detrimental through toxic chemicals being released into the atmosphere directly, leached through the soil into local aquifers and creeks/rivers natural and man-made, potential for spreading of the fire outside of the solar farm proposed area. This would also impact on all adjacent residents as this is a rural area with water catchment including water from roofs.
- Fire and response – impact of grass or scrub fires on the solar farm. Potentially causing significant damage as well as increasing the size of the fire.
- Fire and response – Wairarapa is generally supported by volunteer fire-fighters with only a few permanent fire fighters. The nearest permanently manned station is Carterton – 20+ minutes up the road from the site. This will impact on the time to respond and manage/contain the situation.
- Fire and response – There is no specialist equipment for fighting these fires in this area.
- Access to water – this part of the Wairarapa is subject to droughts as well as having many gravel roads. Moroa Road is, for the majority of it's length, is gravel and traffic has increased considerably on this road since this party moved into this area. Dust from this road travels a long way from the road itself and this will impact on the operation of the solar farm. This location presently does have bores used for irrigation and stock watering. As these go through to the below-surface aquifers, washing this very large number of solar panels to maintain it's efficiency will impact on all neighbouring bore users as the water requirement will be significantly higher than the current farming requirements.
- Control of pest flora species – at this time, this site is grazed by sheep and/or cattle. They effectively control spread of pest flora species – such as thistles. Although there is some comments about continuing to graze sheep on this property, this would be considerably less successful.
- "Solar farm" is a misnomer – this is an industrial installation within a rural environment and will impact on the local residents.
- Rates – there is no proposal for Far North Solar to seal Moroa Road. They would appear to be expecting a small Council to fund this

impact. This also does not address construction traffic which will damage the roads significantly – repairs that would need to be funded by the local ratepayers.

- Valuation of properties – an industrial solar installation would impact on the value and desirability of our properties. This will be a reduction which is not quantifiable at this stage except to say it will be considerable.
- Dark Sky reserve – there is no information in relation to the future lighting that will be installed especially if there are issues with the site. Security lighting will impact on the dark sky reserve as well as potentially spilling onto adjacent properties and causing a further disturbance.
- Fencing – the proposed fencing is not a standard rural standard and would have a significant visual impact.
- Connection to local electricity networks – PowerCo and/or Transpower. The proposal is light on information as to where and how this will be connected – and who pays for this?
- No benefit to the local community – this solar farm proposal would not decrease the cost of electricity to locals. It would increase the density, considerably, in what is a rural area now to be as it if was a city block. This would reduce tourism which is one of the Wairarapa's sources of economic development.
- This solar farm is being sold as "green energy" – which it is not given the amount of rare minerals that are required to manufacture each PV panel. Recycling is also a blank slate at this time -especially given the energy cost for recycling what you can.

I oppose the granting of the resource consent for a solar farm at 415 Moroa Road, Greytown Wairarapa, by the Environment Court. In my opinion, this is not a suitable site for the reasons above, for such an industrial issue. This would have a direct impact on my property, my life as well as other residents and our local environment.

I cannot comment as to whether or not I would agree *or* not agree to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings. This would depend on what was proposed.



.....  
Signature of person wishing to be a party  
(*or* person authorised to sign  
on behalf of person wishing to be a party)

14/11/2023  
.....  
Date

Address for service of person wishing to be a party:  
Telephone: 0275451842

Fax/email: Rachael.hughes@vectorams.co.nz

Contact person: Rachael Hughes

#### Note to person wishing to be a party

You must lodge the original and 1 copy of this notice with the Environment Court within 15 working days after—

- the period for lodging a notice of appeal ends, if the proceedings are an appeal; or
- the decision to hold an inquiry, if the proceedings are an inquiry; or
- the proceedings are commenced, in any other case.

Your right to be a party to the proceedings in the court may be limited by the trade competition provisions in [section 274\(1\)](#) and [Part 11A](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The notice must be signed by you or on your behalf.

You must serve a copy of this notice on the relevant local authority and the person who commenced the proceedings within the same 15 working day period and serve copies of this notice on all other parties within 5 working days after that period ends. However, you may apply to the Environment Court under [section 281](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for a waiver of the above timing or service requirements (see [form 38](#)).

#### *Advice*

If you have any questions about this notice, contact the Environment Court in Auckland, Wellington, or Christchurch.

Schedule 1 form 33: amended, on 10 October 2013, by [regulation 8\(1\)](#) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 2013 (SR 2013/385).

Schedule 1 form 33: amended, on 10 October 2013, by [regulation 8\(2\)](#) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 2013 (SR 2013/385).

Schedule 1 form 33: amended, on 10 October 2013, by [regulation 8\(3\)](#) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 2013 (SR 2013/385).

Schedule 1 form 33: amended, on 10 October 2013, by [regulation 8\(4\)](#) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 2013 (SR 2013/385).

Schedule 1 form 33: amended, on 1 November 2010, by [regulation 19\(1\)](#) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 2010 (SR 2010/279).

Schedule 1 form 33: amended, on 1 June 2006, by [regulation 10\(4\)](#) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 2006 (SR 2006/99).