

# Memorandum

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Attention: Adam Vincent, Planning Officer Consents

Company: Central Otago District Council

Date: 30 April 2024

From: Sue McManaway, Landscape Architect, Boffa Miskell Ltd

Message Ref: RC 240065 - Helios Māniatoto Solar Farm LVA - Request for further information

Project No: BM230187

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*This memo has been prepared in response to a Request for Further Information from Central Otago District Council dated 22 April 2024 and addresses the requests related to the Māniatoto Solar Farm Landscape Effects Assessment and Graphic Supplement. For completeness, each request is copied below before setting out each response.*

- ***Please outline the differences between “Maintained exotic shelter belt planting” and “exotic shelter belt planting” at Pages 230-231 of the application (Graphic Supplement Figures 5C and 5D), including where one will be used over the other as part of landscape mitigation. The Landscape Mitigation Plan (Graphic Supplement Figure 5A) only shows the latter being used.***

As recommended in the Landscape Assessment, irrigation and ongoing monitoring and maintenance of *all* the proposed and existing planting will be required with a routine set out in Landscape Management Plan.

However, the specific reference to ‘Maintained exotic shelter belt planting’ which is illustrated in the cross section at Figure 5C in the Graphic Supplement, relates to a particular section of proposed shelterbelt planting at the northwest corner of the site adjacent to Ranfurly-Naseby Road. At this location it is recommended the shelterbelt be maintained to a height of approximately 3m. There are existing open views along this section of road that would be reduced by the establishment of a tall shelterbelt. Maintaining the proposed planting to a lower height will minimise the enclosure and retain some sense of the big skies and mountain backdrop to the north.

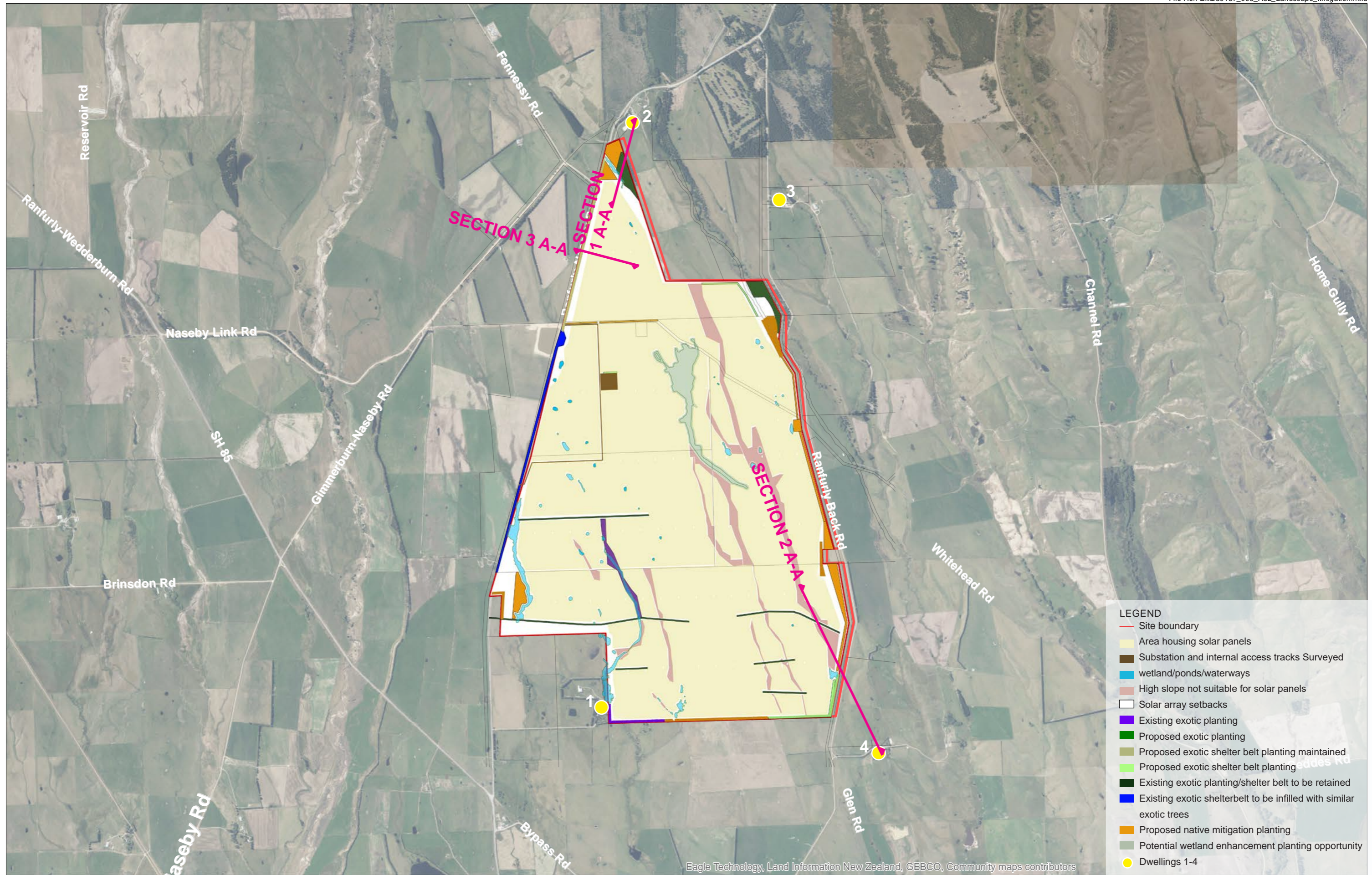
An updated Landscape Mitigation Plan identifying the specific location of the ‘Proposed exotic shelter belt planting - maintained’ is attached.

- ***Not all of the landscaping proposed to mitigate glare shown in Figure 13 is proposed on other landscaping plans (For example Graphic Supplement Figure 5A). Please provide either an updated assessment of glare effects to factor in this vegetation that does not appear to be being proposed or an updated landscaping plan showing all recommended screen plantings.***

The ITP Glint and Glare Study found Ranfurly-Naseby Road and Ranfurly Back Road received the most glare, however the report notes, ‘Mitigation is not required but could be considered to reduce the impact on local road users’ (page 26). Perimeter planting of vegetation screens was put forward in the Study as a measure to reduce glare.

The proposed landscape mitigation planting strategy varies in species and coverage in response to varying landscape characteristics such as existing vegetation, landform and landscape features as well as the nature and extent of mitigation required. Some small gaps in the proposed perimeter planting remained. It is agreed that these gaps be closed and an updated Landscape Mitigation Plan reflecting this change is attached.






**LEGEND**

- Site boundary
- Area housing solar panels
- Substation and internal access tracks Surveyed
- wetland/ponds/waterways
- High slope not suitable for solar panels
- Solar array setbacks
- Existing exotic planting
- Proposed exotic planting
- Proposed exotic shelter belt planting maintained
- Proposed exotic shelter belt planting
- Existing exotic planting/shelter belt to be retained
- Existing exotic shelterbelt to be infilled with similar exotic trees
- Proposed native mitigation planting
- Potential wetland enhancement planting opportunity
- Dwellings 1-4

Eagle Technology, Land Information New Zealand, GEBCO, Community maps contributors

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