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SUBMISSION ON NOTIFIED APPLICATION CONCERNING RESOURCE CONSENT

(Form 13)

Section 95A Resource Management Act 1991

To: The Chief Executive
Central Otago District Council
PO Box 122
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DETAILS OF SUBMITTER

Full name: ANN ELIZABETH POTTER

Contact person (if applicable):

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Postal address (or alternative method of service under [section 352](#) of the Act):

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This is a submission on the following resource consent application: RC No: 240065

Applicant: Helios OTA Op LP Valuation No: 2828012800

Location of Site: 48 Ranfurly-Naseby Road

Brief Description of Application: Land Use Consent to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Solar Farm (Maniatoto Plain Solar Farm) being a Renewable Electricity Generation Activity in a Rural Resource Area.

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are:
(give details, attach on separate page if necessary)

Construction / Running / Effects of Sales Farm

This submission is: (attach on separate page if necessary)

Include:

- whether you support or oppose the specific parts of the application or wish to have them amended; and
- the reasons for your views.

See Attached

I/We seek the following decision from the consent authority:
(give precise details, including the general nature of any conditions sought)

I want to decline this application

I support / oppose the application OR neither support or oppose (select one)

I wish / do not wish to be heard in support of this submission (select one)

I am / am not* a trade competitor for the purposes of [section 308B](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (select one)

*I/We am/am not (select one) directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:

- adversely affects the environment; and
- does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

*Delete this paragraph if you are not a trade competitor.

I oppose the Resource Consent application of Helios Op LP at 48 Ranfurly-Naseby Road, Naseby

Reasons:

The South Island is the main producer of electricity in New Zealand due to the availability of our rivers to create Hydro electricity, most of which is sent to the North Island due to 2/3's of the population living there. We have been told that in doing this the lines lose approx. 30% of the power in the transfer from the south to Auckland (where the biggest population lives). You say the power will supply 70,000 homes, surely that would be if they were straight across from the farm with no line loss – if this were to travel to Auckland (example) then with the 30% loss it would only supply 49,000 homes!

So my question is why would you put a solar farm in the lower part of the South Island and lose all that electricity, when you should put it closer to the end user and lose far, far less electricity in the transfer!

Budget - What is the budget for this project and who is paying for it? Is the cost going to end up on the shoulders of the local ratepayer, when they have enough to pay for with the increases of rates/taxes etc each year. It is noted that the project will take 24 months to complete, I do not believe this will happen as nothing seems to be built without any sort of issues – if problems do occur it will surely run over budget and where will the extra money come from??

Workers – you say there will be 200 – 250 jobs available, where will these people come from? The locals mostly all have jobs so you would have to bring them from outside the area, which then brings the questions of
“Where will they live”,
“Who pays for their accommodation”,
“Will they take all the holiday accommodation in the area and leave nothing for the tourists”.
If this happens then we will not get tourists from which most of our local businesses rely on for survival – example: we have the only International Standard Indoor Curling Rink in the southern hemisphere, that will close due to lack of visitors!
Great for some people but what happens to them after the supposed 24 months!!

Batteries – what sort of batteries are going to be used? This is very vague, it is noted that you MIGHT use 32 Tesla Megapack OR Power Electronics FS4390K OR whatever other BESS product you deem suitable – this should have been decided and noted on the consent application, so people would have known and could have researched said product. We built a house and had to have the make and model of our hot-water cylinder noted on our consent application!

Also if the batteries catch on fire – how will you put them out or even contain the fire???

Lighting – Is the lighting from the lights being put around the project during and after completion going to comply with the “Dark Sky” requirements as Naseby is working on getting the international “Dark Sky” approval and we do not want that jeopardised!

Dust – it is said that they will control the dust. How is that going to happen? Obversely whoever has written all this has never experienced the winds we get here in the Maniototo. If Helio thinks they will use the water from the river, good luck to them as over summer there is not enough water running to help the river environment let alone fill the continuous water trucks they will need.

Access – There are two entries/exits listed to the site off the Ranfurly/Naseby Road – what danger will the locals / tourists / bikers be in with the vehicles coming and going through the

in and out gates. How will this be monitored and can you guarantee that the drivers will use the in/out gates correctly.

Also, it is noted that all vehicles for the site MUST drive on HW85 and not use the bypass of Goff Road – this will take them through the town of Ranfurly, what about the towns people/businesses in town that will be effected particularly with the large trucks going through there.

Fire / Leakage – MAJOR CONCERN!

It is noted that on site there will be stored Transformer Oil (107,600L), Dimethyl Carbonate (113,751L) and Ethylene Glycol (12,800L) – how can it be guarantee that this will not leak out or catch on fire. Both of these issues is my main concern. Also, how can you quote these figures when you haven't decided what equipment you are going to use, depending on the systems will dictate what quantities of these you will need.

Fire: how will this be put out or contained – we are in one of the most fire prone areas of New Zealand and have continuous fire restrictions, you have said you are putting 12 x 25,000L above ground water tanks in case of fire within the substation area, but what about the batteries they cannot be put out with water and also oil etc – this complex should be built in a less fire prone area!

Leakage: should any of the products that are necessary for this sort of project leak into the ground it would be a major disaster to the environment. If it gets into the wetlands, they are destroyed, if it gets into the ground water then it has far reaching consequences, from the site to the sea!

Plantings – it is noted that the company will do major plantings, to screen the farm from the roads and to the wetlands. All very nice, but living in such a major dry area (in particular summer) who is going to ensure that the plants are actually going to survive. Over summer we are so dry they will need to be watered almost every day and in winter they could freeze or the rabbits will get them. All are possibilities?

Noise – How can they say what the noise level is going to be? If Naseby is going to be able to hear the hum of the farm, what are the houses that are close going to hear, their noise level will be much more than Naseby or maybe even Ranfurly will ever be and this will be continuous day and night – not good for any ones health!

Colour – will the colour of the buildings/containers being used be in the areas colour scheme? The council has the say of what colours people have to paint/use when putting up even a farm shed, will this be enforced for the solar farm?

Land – It appears to me that there is a discrepancy in the size of the land to be used. It notes that of the six parcels of land which equals 797.1 ha the solar farm will be located within 665 ha of the leased land. In the “record of title details” the 3 quantities are made up of 132.05 ha + 227.5 ha + 106.5 ha = 466.05 ha. What is happening to the rest (198.95 ha)?

Now/End of Time – who is going to oversee the building of the complex to ensure that the company is going to do this correctly and to the letter, plus at the end of the farms life (some 35 years) who is going to ensure that the same company will be around to complete the dismantle and return to original? So may companies disappear prior to when they are required to dismantle the farms and it ends up a problem for the council or the locals.

My super main concerns are FIRE – NOISE - CONTAMINATION