



## 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  
Alexandra 9340  
[resource.consents@codc.govt.nz](mailto:resource.consents@codc.govt.nz)

### DETAILS OF SUBMITTER

Full name: David John Masters

Contact person (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Electronic address for service of submitter: davidmasters115@gmail.com

Telephone: 021 841 350

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

PO Box 75

Naseby

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)

Please see attached

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.

Please see attached

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

Rejection of the application.

Please see attached for reasons

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

I ~~wish~~ <sup>do not wish</sup> / 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/~~are~~ ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~not~~ (select one) directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:

(a) adversely affects the environment; and

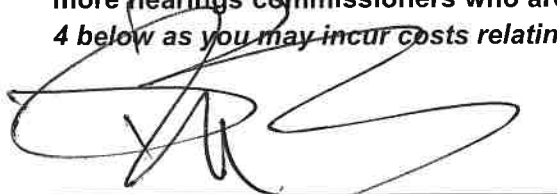
(b) ~~does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.~~

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

~~I/we~~ will consider presenting a joint case if others make a similar submission

*\*Delete this paragraph if not applicable.*

I ~~request~~ do not request (select one), pursuant to section 100A of the Act, that you delegate your functions, powers, and duties to hear and decide the application to 1 or more ~~hearings~~ commissioners who are not members of the local authority. "See note 4 below as you may incur costs relating to this request."



Signature

*(to be signed by submitter or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)*

Date

19/12/2024

In lodging this submission, I understand that my submission, including contact details, are considered public information, and will be made available and published as part of this process.

#### Notes to submitter

1. If you are making a submission to the Environmental Protection Authority, you should use form 16B.

The closing date for serving submissions on the consent authority is the 20th working day after the date on which public or limited notification is given. If the application is subject to limited notification, the consent authority may adopt an earlier closing date for submissions once the consent authority receives responses from all affected persons.

2. You must serve a copy of your submission on the applicant as soon as is reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the consent authority.

3. If you are a trade competitor, your right to make a submission may be limited by the trade competition provisions in Part 11A of the Resource Management Act 1991.

4. If you make a request under section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991, you must do so in writing no later than 5 working days after the close of submissions and you will be liable to meet the additional costs of the hearings commissioner or commissioners, compared to our hearing panel. Typically these costs range from \$3,000 - \$10,000.

5. Please note that your submission (or part of your submission) may be struck out if the authority is satisfied that at least 1 of the following applies to the submission (or part of the submission):

- it is frivolous or vexatious:
- it discloses no reasonable or relevant case:
- it would be an abuse of the hearing process to allow the submission (or the part) to be taken further:
- it contains offensive language:

it is supported only by material that purports to be independent expert evidence, but has been prepared by a person who is not independent or who does not have sufficient specialised knowledge or skill to give expert advice on the matter.

## **I oppose the application in its entirety**

### ***The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are:***

The application in its entire form and for the following reasons.

### **The Applicant**

This is an international private equity investment company. Private equity monies travel the world looking for homes. Looking for opportunities that result from changes in governments, legislation and the softening of attitudes towards environment costs and communities, and soft targets – It appears we meet all of these. This is not money that is interested in solar power, protecting the planet, the environment, and communities. This is money that is only interested in a return on investment.

### **The Application and the proposed business plan**

This is nonsense. This is not about solar panel and taking advantage of environmentally friendly forms of power generation, this is only about generating and storing power for sale to National Grid when prices are peak. Nothing else.

We have no power capacity issues in the Maniatoto/Central Otago/Otago and the South Island. The entire South Island will receive no benefit from this investment but will incur all the cost, risk and damage created and left when the investment no longer delivers the required return.

The idea that the panels/batteries have anything like a 20-year life span is just stupid. There are already multiple examples internationally where communities are having to deal with technological developments where existing equipment has not lasted 10 years. More economic to rip existing out and replace with new technology to increase profits and return on investment.

### **Environmental Impact**

Utterly understated, regardless of how land use is defined the impact on our environment and community will be enormous.

The Maniatoto is a uniquely beautiful natural environment, quite possibly its biggest asset.

The risks are incredible for absolutely no return.

- Visual impact – understated – Solved by planting trees? This is the Maniatoto the business will have failed, owners moved on to next soft target before the trees grow. The visual impact from hills/mountain views of the Maniatoto will be scared for ever.
- Audio impact – again understated – 3 batteries? 8 Batteries 20 Batteries?
  - Not just construction – but on-going.
- Fire risk – Crazy by itself – Naseby Forest's risk and the ability to fight and contain the sorts of fires these installations create is impossible. The damage to the community would be devastating and a major fire could mean the end for Naseby.
- Pollutants – Ability to control after an incident and the effect on water tables would be irreversible.



- Storm damage – what happens when that once in 100-year wind destroys the panels. Who cleans up the mess? Why should the community bear this when actually its about 1 farmer and some investment company which has been liquidated.

### **Community economic impact**

This is non-existent. Telling the story that the Maniatoto requires this type of investment to survive and move forward is just a lie! This is not the 1980's think-big nonsense. This is just about 1 farmer that is looking for a revenue source. Any benefits for anyone else will be minimal in the short term while the environmental damage to the area and the cost of cleaning the mess up will be more than anyone will be able to manage.

### **Community impact**

- We have a passive aging population.
- As reported in the ODT 150 people attended the public meeting, 149 against the application.
- All sat and listened to the information delivered and asked polite questions – most were to an extent in shock not only at the proposal itself but also the lack of any obvious, clear leadership from the community representatives. The view that the Community Board is having discussions about this proposal at a council meeting is hardly providing the community with what it needs and expects from its representatives.
- Neighbour to the site has already been threatened. The bullying nasty behaviour will only intensify as this goes on.
- As the development continues the impact on the community will have a significant negative impact. How can it not? 1 person wins lots, and the rest of the community losses at every level.

### ***I seek the following decision from consent authority:***

Complete rejection of the application.

