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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
Alexandra 9340
resource.consent@codc.govt.nz

DETAILS OF SUBMITTER

Full name: ROBERT ALAN POTTER

Contact person (if applicable):

Electronic address for service of submitter: potternaseby@xta.co.nz

Telephone: 0275 186700

Postal address (or alternative method of service under [section 352](#) of the Act):
PO Box 55
NASEBY 9354

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)

THE CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF A SOLAR 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.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

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

TO REJECT 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:~~

~~(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

16-12-24

Date

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

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 Resource Consent application lodged by Helios OTA Op LP

Reasons:

The South Island produces more electricity than it needs and uses, as we have the right conditions to support hydro. Excess electricity is transmitted to the North Island. Problem is there is an approximate 30% loss getting the electricity to Auckland, where one third of the countries population is based. Why would you build a solar farm here, knowing the rate of loss in transmission, when the solar farm could be put near the end users and either take up 30% less space or provide electricity to thousands of more homes.

I am very concerned about the irreparable damage to the land from this installation, which would become the headache of future generations.

It is easy to quote numbers of panels and output from the installation, but this needs to be verified by an independent expert that has no association with the company nor the area. Experience shows in most large scale projects the results rarely live up to the promises and cost forecasts.

The battery storage is a huge concern. We are told the chances of a mishap are very low. Lithium batteries do catch fire, may not be often, but it does happen. This could be a catastrophic event in our dry hot spring/summer with strong winds to fan a fire. Look what happened to Ohau - that could easily be Naseby. Then you have to consider the huge volume of chemicals housed within the transformers, batteries and inverters. This would be an environmental disaster if it were to soak into the groundwater. Then of course you have the toxic gases which directly affect people.

I am not convinced that the noise level will be insignificant - large transformers make a lot of noise, might not be really loud, but that constant hum going all day is not something pleasant when the wind happens to be coming from the wrong direction.

Light pollution from reflection off the panels on a moonlit night - could this affect the dark skies accreditation that Naseby Vision has been working on for years?

There are predictions for the amount of traffic during construction - which seem very conservative considering the size of the installation. And there is no mention on traffic movement getting the 200 odd construction workers in and out of the site every day.

Dust during construction, especially in the dry months, when we get howling winds for weeks on end, will be a major issue. Water trucks are talked about - but where is that volume of water going to be sourced, as the Maniototo has very limited water resources.

At the end of the farms life, the land is to be reinstated to as it is now. How exactly does this work. Pulling the panels, brackets and posts out are straight forward enough. Is all of the gravel and concrete bases going to be dug out. Is all of the thermal sand and kilometres of cable going to be removed, and what is going to happen to all this equipment. Does not seem to be that eco friendly. And the biggest question, what is to stop Helios putting themselves into liquidation, and just walking away, leaving the landowners and community absolutely in the lurch - this scenario is happening more and more, so can't be discounted.