

Submission on Notified
Resource Consent
PL241235268

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Submission on Notified Resource Consent

Reference PL241235268 **Submitted** 19 Dec 2024 03:52

Notified Submission

SUBMISSION ON NOTIFIED APPLICATION CONCERNING RESOURCE CONSENT

(Form 13)

Section 95A (public) Resource Management Act 1991

To: The Chief Executive
Central Otago District Council
PO Box 122
Alexandra 9340

This is a submission on the following resource consent application:

Resource Consent Number	240065
Valuation Number	2828012800
Applicant	Helios OTA Op LP
Location of Site	48 Ranfurly-Naseby Road, Ranfurly
Brief Description of Application	Land use consent to construct, operate and maintain a 300MWac solar farm
Submissions Close	19 December 2024

Writing a submission

The following will be required during this process:

- Your full name and address, telephone number and email address
- Whether you support or oppose the application for resource consent
- The reason for your submission
- The decision you wish the Council to make, including any conditions sought
- Whether you wish to be heard.

Important information so you don't lose your data

If you wish to take some time completing this form, we strongly recommend that you **create a [login](#) and log in to your account prior to starting to complete the form**. This gives you the ability to save a draft and return to it later.

If you are a club or organisation, please use an email that is associated with the club rather than your work or personal email.

Logging in before starting to enter information into the form also means you won't lose your information if the form times out, or if you accidentally navigate away from the screen you're working on.

You cannot save your information and return to it later unless you log in before you start the form.

Regardless whether you are logged in, once you have completed and submitted the form, you will receive a copy of your submission to the email address you specify in the form.

Either go to our [Online Services](#) page to create an account (or log in if you already have an account) or continue below to start without logging in.

Privacy

The information you provide is official information and is used to help process your application. The information is held and used in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Privacy Act 2020. This means that your information may be disclosed to other people who request it in accordance with the terms of these Acts. Under the Privacy Act 2020 you have the right to see and correct any personal information that Council may hold about you.

Declaration

By continuing with this application you certify that: The information you provide is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. Yes

Notified Submission

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.

In lodging this submission, your submission, including contact details, become public information and will be available for anyone to view.

DETAILS OF SUBMITTER

Full name	Donald John Crawford
Contact person (if applicable)	
Electronic address for service of submitter:	john@bigskyadventures.co.nz
Phone number - day time	021474417
Postal address (or alternative method of service under section 352 of the Act):	P O Box 7, Naseby

Your Application

Please select one regarding the application	I oppose
Do you wish to be heard in support of this submission?	No - I do not want to be heard
Are you a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991?	I am not
I would consider presenting a joint case if others make a similar submission	No

Details of submission

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are:	Potential significant negative impact on local tourism Destruction of renowned pristine and highly attractive Maniototo landscapes
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The submission - include:

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

Possible impact on Naseby's dark skies application due to the effect of glare from the panels

1) During its construction period, the proposed solar farm is likely to have a severe impact on local tourism and potentially on the viability of the Otago Central Rail Trail. The Maniototo is a key staging point on the Trail, with the majority of Trail users spending at least 1 night staying in the area. According to Tourism Central Otago there are only 150 rooms available for tourists each night. The applicant has stated that they will have 250 workers engaged on the project throughout the 2 year construction period! Nowhere in their submissions has the applicant stated how it will provide accommodation for its construction team. On the face of it, the net effect during construction will be to exclude tourists from finding accommodation in the area during the main September - May tourist season.

The OCRT brings thousands of visitors into the area each season and it contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Maniototo economy. With a critical shortage of accommodation during the construction phase of the proposed project, this vital revenue stream, together with local jobs will be at risk. This will also impact local visitor attractions such as the Maniototo Adventure Park, sports tournaments and any other large event planned by organisations over the construction period. It is apparent from the applicant's submissions that the proposed solar farm will produce no economic benefit for the area once construction is completed, whereas tourism is a significant long-term contributor to the local economy.

2) Maniototo is renowned for spectacular, attractive rural landscapes which will be scarred for the next 35 years by the unattractive vastness of the proposed solar farm. I support the development of solar energy of considerably smaller size and in more discreet and largely hidden locations. While its good to see that the applicant proposes to plant trees along key boundaries, it may take years for plantings to screen out the proposed solar farm, particularly because there seems to be little offset between the panels and the Ranfurly-Naseby Road. Naseby attracts thousands of tourists and holidaymakers each year and continues to grow in popularity. Sadly, if the solar farm application is granted, Naseby visitors will be greeted by what would be second only to an industrial wasteland and probably one of the ugliest approaches to any town in NZ, unless the visual impact of the proposed farm are fully mitigated.

3. While it is acknowledged that the applicant has undertaken extensive work into the affects of glare on neighbouring properties, It seems that no consideration has been given to Naseby's pending International Dark

Skies application and any possible impact that glare from the panels may have during full moon and other periods. The Naseby community has invested hundreds of hours to bring this project to fruition and the applicant needs to demonstrate that glare from its panels will not affect the community's pending status.

Please upload any documents / photos that are relevant

I seek the following decision from the consent authority.

Give precise details, including the general nature of any conditions sought I oppose the applicants proposal

Select below - Pursuant to [section 100A](#) of the Act, that I do not request 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 (second tab) as you may incur costs relating to this request."

Any other comments?

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. Yes

Please sign (click on the words CAPTURE)



Date signed: 19/12/2024