

Yasmine Binnie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:24 am
To: Online Resource Consent Applications; Richard Bigsby
Subject: FW: KeaX Submission
Attachments: Selwyn DC Submission form.pdf; submission for solar.docx

Categories: Yasmine

Hello,

I am passing on this submission as requested, in the knowledge that the Wards were not limited notified.

Kind regards
Claire.

Claire Kelly | Planner | Senior Principal | Full Member, New Zealand Planning Institute

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:13 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: KeaX Submission

Hi Claire

Please find attached a copy of our submission in Favour of the solar array going ahead.
I was not sure who I should be sending this to, so I trust if it is someone other than yourself you can pass it on for me.
Have a Happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.

Regards
Paul Ward

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Planning Unit

Notice of Submission on an Application for Resource Consent

Application Reference:

RC 235464

Resource Management Act 1991 - Form 13

Send or deliver your application to: Selwyn District Council, PO Box 90, Rolleston 7643

For enquiries phone: (03) 347-2868

For enquiries email: planninginfo@selwyn.govt.nz

1. Submitter Details

Name of Submitter(s) (state full name(s)): Pitcairn Farm Ltd, AM Ward, PA Ward

Physical Address: 150 Buckleys Rd, RD 2, Leeston, 7682

Address for Service (if different):

Email:

Telephone (day):

Mobile:

2. Application Details

Application Reference Number (if not stated above):

Name of Applicant (state full name): Kea X

Application Site Address: 115, 150 + 187 Buckleys Rd, Brookside

Description of Proposed Activity: to construct + operate a new Solar array

3. Submission Details

- I / We: ☒ Support all or part of the application
☐ Oppose all or part of the application
☐ Are neutral towards all or part of the application

The specific parts of the application that my / our submission relates to are: (give details, continue on a separate sheet)

In support of the overall application.

The reasons for my / our submission are:

To give a positive side to the discussion

The decision I / We would like the Council to make is: (give details including, if relevant, the parts of the application you wish to have amended and the general nature of any conditions sought.)

Support the application.

RC 235464

Paul, Jenny, Matthew, Priscilla and Angela Ward, the owners of Pitcairn Farm Ltd are fully in favour of this development going ahead.

A lot of work has gone into investigating the pros and cons of the solar system and we are convinced this is the way ahead.

Once the development work is completed it has a very passive effect on the environment. Being next to a sub-station also cuts down on the amount of infrastructure required for the power generated to be utilized.

The Selwyn district is one of the fastest growing areas in New Zealand, the need for sustainable, environmentally friendly power generation systems, will help to meet Selwyn's energy demands going forward.

Also, the rural character will not be affected, due to not being able to see, smell or hear the panels, once established.

As the land owners, we will be leasing the land for the solar and being able to farm underneath the panels. We have been farming here for 50 years and have an excellent understanding of the land and how to farm it. With the majority of the land still able to be farmed, this will keep the area tidy. At this stage we intend to harvest surplus grass as balage and graze with either young cattle or sheep. Lincoln University is doing research into different crops and other options for farming beneath the panels. There is research being undertaken by Halter NZ to find out if dairy cows controlled by virtual fencing can be grazed around the panels.

The panels create a micro climate underneath which helps to retain moisture and reduces wind and evapotranspiration. This may lead to other options for different types of agriculture.

We already have a small area of panels on a waste piece of unirrigated land which is growing more grass than before and is being grazed by cattle.

Due to the panels tracking from east to west and back overnight any rainfall will be dispersed across an area of ground and not always running onto one place as with fixed panels. This means there will not be any more risk from water runoff than when it was grazing cows. In fact, as there will be less stock on the area, the risk of leaching Nitrates will be greatly reduced as will the pugging damage.

The risk of toxins from the panels leaching into the soil is virtually nil. The panels when they reach the end of their life are able to be fully recycled. If for some reason the operation was no longer viable, the panels and frames can be removed and the land returned to traditional farming, as the land is not being damaged in any way.

Having trees planted right around the perimeter of the solar area will mean it will not have an effect on the rural aspect of the area as the panels will not be able to be seen, apart from maybe the smallest glimpse as you pass a gateway.

We, as farmers, had intended to complete the boundary plantings, even if the solar had not gone ahead. Both for attractiveness and for practical reasons. This will have a positive effect on the environment, reducing the wind and helping to create a pathway of trees across the plains which helps to encourage more native birds into the area.

The existing trees growing internally will be removed for the panels, but these trees will have to be removed some-time soon anyway as they are becoming difficult to manage with the pivots going over the top. The new trees to be planted around the perimeter will more than make up for the trees removed. Some irrigation will be retained to water the trees so they will grow to their potential.

New internal fencing will be put up after the panels are in place to make managing stock easier and water for the stock will be put into suitable places.

Another positive is that we will no longer need to cross the road twice a day with the cows, as the remaining cows will be able to be grazed only on the other side of the road. There will also be a few less cows in Ellesmere which seems to be what the general public would prefer.

Thank you for listening and we hope you look positively on this application.

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