

**13 December 2024**

Attention:

**Darfield Solar – Section 92 Response to Items 7, 8, 9 and 10**

**Introduction**

Selwyn District Council issued a further information request relating to the resource consent application at 1352 Homebush Road, Darfield. Four of the items queried (Items 7 to 10) relate to ecological matters. This letter responds to each of these matters with the query by the Council italicised, and a response provided below.

**Response to Items**

7. *Please provide a complete vegetation species list and descriptions of the habitats present.*

The description included within the AEE was considered appropriate due to the low ecological value and homogenous nature of the four exotic dominated vegetation types identified within the site. These vegetation types are described further below with a species list included in Attachment 1.

- Grassland of shortly grazed cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) with lucerne (*Medicago sativa*) and white clover (*Trifolium repens*). Paddocks were either permanent or resown following seasonal cropping and associated tillage.
- Forage crops of ungrazed kale remaining in some paddocks at the time of visit.
- Shelterbelts of hedge trimmed exotic conifers; Leyland cypress (*Cupressus x leylandii*), macrocarpa (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) and radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) and the exotic deciduous broadleaf sweet gum (*liquidambar styraciflua*).
- Hedgerows of the exotic clump forming grass pampas (*Cortaderia selloana*) and widely spaced silver birch (*Betula pendula*).

Each of these vegetation types did not warrant further classification lacking both the complexity or diversity that would necessitate use of a standard methodology such as Atkinson (1985).

8. *Please provide a full list of bird species found in the desktop survey and an assessment of the likelihood of these species being present at the site.*

A full species list of birds recorded within 10km of the site is included in Attachment 2, all of which were considered in the assessment of effects. The common native birds, spur winged plover and fantail were observed at the site during walkthrough surveys. The species listed in Table 1 below are considered potentially present, though the site would provide only occasional, low value habitat, abundantly available in the surrounding landscape. Various exotic birds listed in Attachment 2 may also be present.

**Table 1. Native species potentially present at site.**

Species	Common name	Biostatus	Threat status
Anthus novaeseelandiae	New Zealand pipit	Endemic	At Risk - Declining
Bubulcus coromandus	Cattle egret	Native	Migrant
Chroicocephalus bulleri	Black-billed gull	Endemic	At Risk - Declining
Circus approximans	Swamp harrier	Native	Not Threatened
Falco novaeseelandiae	NZ falcon (Eastern)	Endemic	Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable
Gerygone igata	Grey warbler	Endemic	Not Threatened
Haematopus finschi	South Island pied oystercatcher	Endemic	At Risk - Declining
Hirundo neoxena	Welcome swallow	Native	Not Threatened
Larus dominicanus	Southern black-backed gull	Native	Not Threatened
Tadorna variegata	Paradise shelduck	Endemic	Not Threatened
Todiramphus sanctus	Sacred kingfisher	Native	Not Threatened
Vanellus miles	Spur-winged plover	Native	Not Threatened
Zosterops lateralis	Silvereye	Native	Not Threatened

9. *Please provide results from fish surveys (either as a standalone methodology), or in combination with eDNA metabarcoding, following the 6-replicate methodology.*

Fish surveys were not deemed necessary due to the low level of effects of the proposed activity on the water race present.

10. *Please provide evidence of an assessment of species potentially present within the area, and surveys for lizards or justification as to why this is not necessary at the site. Surveys should be undertaken using DOC approved methods by an appropriately qualified and permitted herpetologist.*

A walk-through survey of the site found habitat on site to be unsuitable for lizards, as described in Section 4 of the Assessment of Environmental Effects.

### Concluding Statement

I trust that this addresses the matters raised. Please don't hesitate contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Ecologist**

# Attachment 1

## Plant species list

<b>Species</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Biostatus</b>
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Brown top	Exotic
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal	Exotic
<i>Azolla rubra</i>	Red azolla	Native - Not threatened
<i>Bellis perrenis</i>	Daisy	Exotic
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch	Exotic
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>acephala</i>	Kale	Exotic
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas cedar	Exotic
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	Exotic
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas	Exotic
<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>	Leyland cypress	Exotic
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot	Exotic
<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>	Macrocarpa	Exotic
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Catsear	Exotic
<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>	Hawkbit	Exotic
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet gum	Exotic
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Tall fescue	Exotic
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne	Exotic
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Penny royal	Exotic
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata	Exotic
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantain	Exotic
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	Exotic
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	Exotic

# Attachment 2

## Bird species list

Species	Common name	Biostatus	Threat status
Acanthis cabaret	Lesser redpoll	Introduced and Naturalised	Threatened - Nationally Increasing
Alauda arvensis	Eurasian Skylark	Introduced and Naturalised	
Anarhynchus frontalis	Wrybill	Endemic	
Anas gracilis	Grey Teal	Native	Not Threatened
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	Introduced and Naturalised	At Risk - Declining Threatened - Nationally Critical
Anas platyrhynchos x superciliosa	Mallard x grey duck hybrid		
Anser anser	Greylag goose	Introduced and Naturalised	
Anthornis melanura	Bellbird	Endemic	Not Threatened
Anthus novaeseelandiae	New Zealand pipit	Endemic	Threatened - Nationally Endangered
Ardea alba	Kōtuku	Native	
Athene noctua	Little owl	Introduced and Naturalised	
Branta canadensis	Canada goose	Introduced and Naturalised	Migrant
Bubulcus coromandus	Cattle egret	Native Introduced , Not Established	
Cairina moschata	Muscovy duck	Introduced and Naturalised	
Callipepla californica	California quail	Introduced and Naturalised	Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable
Carduelis carduelis	European goldfinch	Introduced and Naturalised	
Charadrius bicinctus	Double-banded Plover	Endemic	
Chlidonias albastriatus	Black-fronted tern	Endemic	At Risk - Declining
Chloris chloris	Greenfinch	Introduced and Naturalised	
Chroicocephalus bulleri	Black-billed gull	Endemic	
Circus approximans	Swamp harrier	Native	Not Threatened
Columba livia	Rock dove	Introduced and Naturalised	Not Threatened
Corvus frugilegus	Rook	Introduced and Naturalised	
Egretta novaehollandiae	White-faced heron	Native	
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	Introduced and Naturalised	At Risk - Declining At Risk - Recovering
Falco novaeseelandiae	Eastern falcon	Endemic	
Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	Introduced and Naturalised	
Gerygone igata	Grey warbler	Endemic	Not Threatened
Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian magpie	Introduced and Naturalised	At Risk - Declining
Haematopus finschi	South Island pied oystercatcher	Endemic	
Haematopus unicolor	Variable oystercatcher	Endemic	
Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae	Kererū	Endemic	Not Threatened
Himantopus leucocephalus	Pied stilt	Native	Not Threatened
Hirundo neoxena	Welcome swallow	Native	Not Threatened
Larus dominicanus	Southern black-backed gull	Native	Not Threatened
Meleagris gallopavo	Wild turkey	Introduced and Naturalised	At Risk - Relict
Microcarbo melanoleucos	Little shag	Native	
Passer domesticus	House sparrow	Introduced and Naturalised	
Phalacrocorax carbo	Black shag	Native	At Risk - Relict

Phalacrocorax varius	Pied shag	Native	At Risk - Recovering
Phasianus colchicus	Common pheasant	Introduced and Naturalised	
Porphyrio melanotus	Pūkeko	Native	Not Threatened
Prunella modularis	Dunnock	Introduced and Naturalised	
Rhipidura fuliginosa	Fantail	Endemic	Not Threatened
Spilopelia chinensis	Spotted dove	Introduced and Naturalised	
Sterna striata	White-fronted tern	Native	At Risk - Declining
Sturnus vulgaris	Starling	Introduced and Naturalised	
Tadorna variegata	Paradise shelduck	Endemic	Not Threatened
Todiramphus sanctus	Sacred kingfisher	Native	Not Threatened
Turdus merula	Blackbird	Introduced and Naturalised	
Turdus philomelos	Song thrush	Introduced and Naturalised	
Vanellus miles	Spur-winged plover	Native	Not Threatened
Zosterops lateralis	Silvereye	Native	Not Threatened