

**NZCE Responses and Proposed Condition Amendments in reply to Ecological Peer Review
(Wildlands)**

Request	Response
Lizards	
Need targeted lizard survey, in potentially suitable habitat, during the lizard active season (October-April), prior to works commencing.	<p>Propose new conditions to require lizard management plan, including provision for pre-construction survey (see also consequential amendment to Condition 3 at the end of the table):</p> <p><u>25. At least 30 working days prior to the commencement of vegetation clearance or earthworks (whichever is the sooner), the Consent Holder shall submit a Lizard Management Plan (LizMP) to the Selwyn District Council for certification that it meets the objective of “avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of vegetation clearance or earthworks on any lizard species.”. The Lizard Management PlanMP shall address the following matters:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Details of a site survey to be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist/herpetologist with at least five years’ experience conducting lizard surveys, in order to determine whether indigenous lizard species are present within the solar array footprint; and</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Procedures for the capture and relocation of any lizards that may be found.</u></p> <p><u>26. The survey required by Condition 25(a) shall be targeted to potentially suitable habitat and must be undertaken during the lizard active season (October-April).</u></p> <p><u>27. Should lizards be discovered in any area, then they must be relocated in accordance with the Lizard Management Plan prior to any vegetation clearance or earthworks in that area.</u></p> <p><u>Advice note: Authorisation is required under the Wildlife Act for the relocation of any lizards found. The Department of Conservation should be contacted in this regard.</u></p>
Aquatic ecology	
Need fish survey, particularly to confirm the presence/absence of the canterbury mudfish	<p>Amendments to Fish Management Plan and culvert installation conditions to specifically provide for Canterbury mudfish:</p> <p>18-22. <u>At least 30 working days prior to installation of any culverts, the consent holder shall submit to SDC for certification a NFMP</u> The NFMP shall set out measures to prevent</p>

~~injury/mortality to fish during installation of the culverts, and to provide for fish passage post-installation. All works to install culverts shall be undertaken in accordance with the certified NFRP to meet the objectives of:~~

- ~~(a) preventing injury/mortality to fish during installation of the culverts; and~~
- ~~(b) providing for fish passage post-installation.~~

~~19.23. The NFMP must include:~~

- ~~(a) a methodology for the collection and analysis of eDNA specifically to detect the presence of Canterbury mudfish within/upstream of the site; and~~
- ~~(b) provision for the use of a de-fishing methodology suitable for the capture and relocation of any Canterbury mudfish present.~~

~~20.24. All works to install culverts shall must be:~~

- ~~(a) a. Undertaken in accordance with the certified NFRP;~~
- ~~(b) b. To a standard compatible with Regulation 70(2) of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020; and~~
- ~~(c) c. Scheduled and undertaken in a manner that avoids unnecessary disturbance to any Canterbury mudfish present.~~

~~Advice note 1: The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 do not otherwise apply.~~

~~Advice note 2: Avoiding unnecessary disturbance to any Canterbury mudfish present may be achieved by undertaking river crossing works in close succession / at the same time to avoiding affecting the same fish multiple times.~~

New culverts should comply with “fish passage requirements”

See above regarding conditions to require design of new culverts to NES-FM standard.

The existing culverts should be assessed to ensure they comply with the NIWA New Zealand Fish Passage Guidelines.

There is no basis to require assessment of the existing culverts as these are not affected by the proposal.

Assessment of the ecological impacts of stormwater on the freshwater ecosystems	A stormwater management plan is provided for in the proposed conditions, and with sediment control in place, there is no material change from existing environment.
Avifauna	
Assessment of the 'likelihood' of the species being present based on their habitat preferences, and species that may potentially breed (or attempt to breed) on the site (particularly in the grassland habitats).	See EcoLogical Solutions memorandum dated 20 March 2025.
Assessment of effects should include construction related activities, not just vegetation clearance.	This request specifically relates to potential effects of ground disturbance on the South Island pied oystercatcher. Breeding period exclusion condition amended to include earthworks and extend the activity exclusion period (i.e. breeding season) – see below.
Disturbance to avifauna can be minimised by undertaking the proposed works outside of the avifauna breeding season from August to February (inclusive). If works must occur during the avifauna breeding season, a site survey should be conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced avifauna ecologist within eight days prior to the works commencing to determine whether indigenous birds and non-indigenous birds that are protected under the Wildlife Act (1953) are present. If breeding birds are present, the suitably qualified and experienced ecologist should advise of a setback buffer from the nest site and works should not commence within buffers, until any chicks present have fledged.	<p>Clarify breeding season (existing condition is September – February, as per Ecology report).</p> <p>Amend conditions to include earthworks and requirement for pre-works survey for any works outside breeding season.</p> <p>17. Where internal shelterbelts are to be cleared, this shall occur outside of the main bird breeding season (1 September – 31 January (inclusive)) to avoid any risk of impacts to nesting protected indigenous birds.</p> <p>18. No vegetation clearance, earthworks or construction activities may be undertaken between 1 September – 28 February (inclusive), other than in accordance with Conditions 19-21.</p> <p>19. Within 8 days of any vegetation clearance, earthworks or construction activities being undertaken in any area between 1 September – 28 February (inclusive), a site survey must be conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced avifauna ecologist to determine whether indigenous birds and non-indigenous birds that are protected under the Wildlife Act (1953) are present.</p> <p>20. If the survey required by Condition 19 finds that breeding birds are present, a setback buffer as determined by the suitably qualified and experienced ecologist site must be applied from the nest site(s) and works must not commence within buffers until any chicks present have fledged or the ecologist advises for other reasons that the buffer is no longer required.</p>

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21. A report of the results of the survey required by Condition 19 and any measures required under Condition 20 must be submitted to SDC within 10 working days of the survey being undertaken.

Vegetation

It is suggested that mitigation planting proposed in the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Assessment Report (Mansergh and Burge 2024), is reviewed and revised to include correct and appropriate indigenous species for the Canterbury High Plains Ecological District.

Landscape conditions revised to include requirement for utilisation of appropriate indigenous species for the Canterbury High Plains Ecological District. Also amended to reflect the riparian planting requested by Mahaanui Kurataiao.

14. At least 30 working days prior to the commencement of landscaping, the Consent Holder shall submit to SDC for certification a LMP. The LMP will be in general accordance with the Mitigation Planting Plan Drawings No. 01 and 02 dated 10/04/24 ~~and~~ included as an attachment to these conditions and shall also include provision for a planting strip of minimum width of 3m along one bank of the water race that is located in the centre of the site (running north to south), which will have a maximum growth height equivalent to the maximum width of the water race within the site.

15. The LMP shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Identification of existing vegetation within the Site and along the site boundaries to be retained and protected or replaced;
- (b) A planting programme including staging, timing and species; and
- (c) Measures to maintain the retained and additional planting for the duration of this consent.
- ~~(a)—The details of plant species, spacing, size and quantities of plants;~~
- ~~(b)—Timeline for planting works;~~
- ~~(c)—Details of site preparation and maintenance required for plant establishment including the nature, duration and extent of any proposed irrigation;~~
- ~~(d)—Details of plant replacement should a gap become apparent, the plants die or become diseased;~~
- ~~(e)—The location and design of fencing of the Site;~~
- ~~(f)—Details of ongoing maintenance including weed control management and monitoring;~~
- ~~(g)—Details of the method and frequency of monitoring the health of the plants to ensure their health and survival;~~

16. All species utilised in new planting must be appropriate indigenous species for the Canterbury High Plains Ecological District.

17. All landscaping shall be implemented in accordance
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with the LMP and maintained for the duration of the solar array activity ~~in accordance with the LMP.~~

Consequential amendment to Condition 3 to reflect new LizMP

3. The Consent Holder shall prepare the following management plans for certification by the Council (compliance@selwyn.govt.nz) or by their nominated appointee.
- (a) Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP); and
 - (b) Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)
 - (c) Landscaping Management Plan (LMP)
 - (d) Native Fish Management Plan (NFMP)
 - (e) Lizard Management Plan (LizMP)