

Planning Unit

Notice of Submission on an Application for Resource Consent

Application Reference:
RC245775

Resource Management Act 1991 - Form 13

Send or deliver your application to: Selwyn District Council, PO Box 90, Rolleston 7643 or submissions@selwyn.govt.nz

For enquiries phone: (03) 347-2800 or email: contactus@selwyn.govt.nz

1. Submitter Details

Name of Submitter(s) (state full name(s)): **Mahaanui Kurataiao on behalf of Te Taumutu Rnanga**

Physical Address: **C/- 226 Antigua Street, Christchurch 8011**

Address for Service (if different):

Email: **Mahaanui.admin@ngaitahu.iwi.nz and Taumutu@ngaitahu.iwi.nz** (please send to both email addresses)

Telephone (day): **03 377 4374** Mobile: **021 946 782**

2. Application Details

Application Reference Number (if not stated above): **RC245775**

Name of Applicant (state full name): **Darfield Solar and Energy Storage Limited**

Application Site Address: **1352 Homebush Road, Darfield**

Description of Proposed Activity: **To construct, operate, and maintain a solar farm and battery energy storage facility.**

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)

Consent is required from Selwyn District Council associated with the construction and operation of a solar farm and battery energy storage facility in Darfield. A consent duration of 40 years has been requested.

The specific part of the application that our submission relates to is the consent duration.

The reasons for **my / our** submission are:

Kaitiaki for Te Taumutu Rūnanga reviewed these applications in late 2024 and a report was provided to Selwyn District Council on the 18th of November 2024. This Mana Whenua Advice Report contained Consent conditions required by Te Taumutu Rūnanga to moderate the impacts of the proposed activity on mana whenua values.

While the applicant and council have adopted most of these consent conditions, they have not provided for the consent condition limiting the duration of this consent to 15 years. PLEASE SEE CONTINUED SUBMISSION ON DOCUMENT "[CONTINUED - Submission on RC245775](#)"

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.)

Grant the consent with a 15 year duration.

4. Submission at the Hearing

- ☐ I / We wish to speak in support of my / our submission.
- ☒ I / We do not wish to speak in support of my / our submission.
- ☐ If others make a similar submission I / We will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.
- ☐ Pursuant to section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991 I / We request that the Council delegate its functions, powers, and duties required to hear and decide the application to one or more hearings commissioners who are not members of the Council. *(Please note that if you make such a request you may be liable to meet or contribute to the costs of the commissioner(s). Requests can also be made separately in writing no later than 5 working days after the close of submissions.)*

5. Signature

(Of submitter(s) or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter(s))

Signature: Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd Date: 27/06/2025

Signature: Date:

Note: A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.

6. Privacy Information

The personal information requested in the form is being collected by Selwyn District Council so that we can process your application. This information is required by the Resource Management Act 1991. This information will be held by the Council. You may ask to check and correct any of this personal information if you wish. The personal information collected will not be shared with any departments of the Council not involved in processing your application. However under the Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 this information may be made available on request to parties within and outside the Council.

7. Important Information

1. The Council must receive this submission before the closing date and time for submissions on this application.
2. You must also send a copy of this submission to the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable, at the applicant's address for service.
3. All submitters will be advised of hearing details at least 10 working days before the hearing. If you change your mind about whether you wish to speak at the hearing, please contact the Council by telephone on 347-2800 or by email at planning.technical@selwyn.govt.nz
4. Only those submitters who indicate that they wish to speak at the hearing will be sent a copy of the planning report.

For Office Use Only

Received at the Office on at am / pm

Submission on RC245775 - 1352 Homebush Road, Darfield by applicant Darfield Solar and Energy Storage Limited

Submission from Mahaanui Kurataiao on behalf of Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

The reasons for **my / our** submission are **CONTINUED**:

Ngāi Tahu holds and exercises rangatiratanga within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā and has done so since before the arrival of the Crown. The rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu resides within the papatipu rūnanga. The Crown and Parliament have recognised the enduring nature of that rangatiratanga through:

the 1998 Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act (NTCSA) in which Parliament endorsed and implemented the Deed of Settlement.

As recorded in the Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu in the NTCSA, the Ngāi Tahu Settlement marked a turning point, and the beginning of a “new age of co-operation”. The Crown apologised for its “past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries” and confirmed that it “recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui”.

The takiwā of Taumutu Rūnanga centres on Taumutu and the waters of Te Waihora and adjoining lands and shares a common interest with Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua in the area south to Hakatere.

Accordingly, Te Taumutu Rūnanga have a unique and abiding interest in the sustainable management of te taiao – the environment.

In terms of this response, Mahaanui Kurataiao has taken a targeted approach and only addresses matters of fundamental concern to Te Taumutu Rūnanga. The fact that Mahaanui Kurataiao has not commented on any particular matter should not be taken as support thereof and Te Taumutu Rūnanga reserves the right to comment on additional matters at a hearing or in the future.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) provides the basis for the relationship between central and local government and iwi/hapū in managing indigenous biodiversity, as per the duty of active protection of Māori interests and the principle of partnership.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi protects Tikanga Māori values & practices as a constitutional legal instrument governing Aotearoa New Zealand. In addition, the Resource Management Act has provisions to protect Māori perspective (s 5, 6, 7, 8).

Solar panels are impervious and as such, establishing 188,000 solar panels across a 148ha site will therefore greatly increase the impervious surface cover of this site.

The discharge of water from impervious surfaces can cause a variety of negative environmental impacts including the potential to change the sites hydrology/ water flow patterns, increase soil erosion, and the contamination of water runoff caused by damaged, degraded, or corroded materials.

Under this proposal, the receiving environment of these potential adverse effects is the underlying soil and the various watercourses running through and around the site.

Soil is a fundamental resource, and together with air and water, is the basis on which life depends. As the natural capital upon which much of the region's economy depends, it is critical that the true (and non-replaceable) value of our soils is recognised and provided for in policy and planning processes.

Water is a significant cultural resource that connects Ngāi Tahu to the landscape and the culture and traditions of the tūpuna. Water is a taonga, and there is a collective responsibility to protect and enhance the mauri of this taonga. The RMA recognises the relationship of Māori to freshwater as a matter of national importance.

Kaitiaki request shorter consent period durations when higher risks are perceived. In most situations, shorter durations are requested by Kaitiaki because longer consent durations remove the ability for future generations of mana whenua to fulfil their kaitiakitanga obligations. Further, it is extremely hard to determine (with certainty) the adverse effects of an activity well into the future. Shorter consent durations allow for greater accountability, compliance, environmental protection, and allow for technological advances or new solutions to be implemented.

The recommended 15-year duration has been provided to remain consistent with the operation phase stormwater consent duration.

The discharge of operational phase stormwater is fundamental to the facilitation of this activity.

If, in the future, the stormwater quality or discharge methods during the operational phase prove to be environmentally inadequate, there must be an opportunity to amend both the stormwater discharge consent and the facility's operational consent to ensure the protection of environmental and cultural values can be achieved. This flexibility cannot be ensured if the duration of consent RC245775 is set at 40 years.

Additionally, the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement - Policy 7.3.12, details how it is important that precautionary approaches are adopted on land use consents where the effects, specifically on water quality, are unknown.

The potential to change the site's hydrology and the potential for runoff to become contaminated with sediments or chemical contaminants both threaten the mauri of the water.