

From: [Submissions](#)
To: [Yasmine Binnie](#)
Subject: FW: Resource Consent Submission Form 13
Date: Monday, 7 April 2025 8:31:31 am

Same for this one too

-----Original Message-----

From: submissions@selwyn.govt.nz <submissions@selwyn.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 6 April 2025 7:37 pm
To: Submissions <submissions@selwyn.govt.nz>
Subject: Resource Consent Submission Form 13

**** Your Details ****

*Resource Consent Number : RC246059
*First Name : Matthew
*Surname : Arnold
*Box/Road/Street Number and Name : [REDACTED] or RD :
*Town/City : [REDACTED]
Area Code : [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED] Organisation Name :
Contact Name :
Phone Number :

**** Submission ****

*The type of consent is: : Land Use Consent The location of the consent is: : 80 Struie Road, Hororata The proposed activity/change is: : For the construction and operation of a 10ha solar array (solar farm).

*The specific part(s) of the application that my submission relates to are: : Visual Impacts, Landscaping *My submission is in: : Neutral *My Submission is: : My submission relates to primarily to the landscape effects of the application for the solar array. While this is a neutral submission I am in general support of the application. There are some changes since initial consultation that have lead to me making this submission.

We were consulted with by the applicant in late 2024 where they provided a copy of their proposal. I note that several of the plans provided for consultation have had changes made to them in the subsequent time leading up to this limited notification. From my perspective there is increased visual impact through the change in the plans, including the addition of storage containers along the southern boundary.

The screening at the time of consultation was mentioned to be fast growing conifers which has now changed to native planting which I believe is a better option. The inclusion of these natives will be a great addition to the local environment.

The view of the solar array in the initial establishment will be highly visible from the habitable areas of our dwelling. It is known that a building without the amount of screening proposed could be established within this viewshaft. However, the perspective of the solar panels at full tilt will give the perspective of entire site coverage. For that reason, the screening is considered to be very important.

Key screening points from the Application

- The AEE specifies planting being 1m high at the time of planting and will be at least 2m tall before the solar array is fully operational.
- Plant spacing proposed at 2 - 2.5m.
- The proposed conditions set out planting to begin in the first planting season after construction has commenced and the landscaping plan accompanying the application sets out a single line of native fast-growing plants.
- Under the s92 response; the Novo Group landscape assessment states that the fast-growing native species will establish quickly with appropriate maintenance (watering etc).

The temporal effects of the visual impact have not been considered well in the AEE. The Novo Group landscape assessment states that these plants can meet the intended screening height after 5 years. Without being an expert, I imagine this is in good growing conditions and not stoney, dry, nutrient poor ground. Given that these may be established up to 1 year after the construction has started that could mean a minimum of 6

years until the visual effects have been mitigated to the proposed level.

The design life of the solar farm is 30 years so for approximately 20% of the operational time of the farm there will be visual impacts primarily on the surrounding properties. A significant portion of time for visual effects.

*I seek the following decision from the Selwyn District Council: : To reduce the impacts of visual effects on the surrounding properties I ask that council establish conditions that will ensure that maximum growth rates of plants are obtained.

Included with this would be conditions reiterating what has been proposed in the AEE and landscape assessment.

- That plants be at least 1m tall at time of planting.
- Plants must be at least 2m tall before the solar array can be made full operational.
- That an approved maintenance schedule be prepared and followed by the consent holder that will ensure plants will establish quickly and that this be followed until plants meet maturity and the designed height and screening. This plan must include an irrigation system.

As mentioned before these proposed additions are only what the applicant has mentioned in their application so are not unanticipated or unreasonable.

- To further reduce visual impacts the applicant should consider a double row of plants which reduce the gaps between plants and time for the solar array to be fully screened.

Supporting Information: : No file uploaded

**** Hearing ****

*Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? : I don't wish to be heard *If others make a similar submission, I would consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing. : No

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