

**IN THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
AT AUCKLAND**

**I TE KŌTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA
KI TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU**

Decision [2025] NZEnvC 179

IN THE MATTER OF appeals under clause 14 of the First
Schedule to the Resource Management
Act 1991

BETWEEN MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED
(ENV-2022-AKL-000063)

WEL NETWORKS LIMITED
(ENV-2022-AKL-000081)

Appellants

AND WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL
Respondent

AND TE WHAKAKITENGA O
WAIKATO

GENESIS ENERGY LIMITED

Section 274 Parties

Court: Environment Judge J A Smith, sitting alone under s 279(1)(b) of
the Act

Last case event: 9 June 2025

Date of Order: 9 June 2025

Date of Issue: 9 June 2025



Appeals against the proposed Waikato District Plan – Topic 4.2: Infrastructure – all other
matters

CONSENT ORDER

A: Under s 279(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Environment Court, by consent, orders that:

- (1) the Interpretation – definitions, EGEN – Electricity generation, and MET – Meteorological chapters of the proposed Waikato District Plan (Decisions Version) be amended as set out in **Appendix A** to this Order.

B: Under s 285 of the Act, there is no order as to costs.

REASONS

Introduction

[1] This consent determination relates to two appeals by Meridian Energy Limited (**Meridian**) and WEL Networks Limited (**WEL**) against parts of the decisions of the Waikato District Council in respect of the Proposed Waikato District Plan (**PDP**). The relief sought in the appeals has been assigned to Topic 4.2: Infrastructure – All other infrastructure matters.

[2] This Order resolves the following parts of the appeals by Meridian and WEL related to electricity generation (**EGEN**) and assigned to Topic 4.2:

- (a) the relief sought in paragraphs 16 and 17 of Meridian’s notice of appeal regarding rules EGEN-R6(1) and EGEN-R8 relate to the establishment of Large-Scale Wind Farms within the General rural zone (**GRUZ**);
- (b) the relief sought in paragraphs 26, 30 and 31 of Meridian’s notice of appeal regarding rules EGEN-R3(1), MET-R1(1) and MET-R2(1) relating to the provision of meteorological measurement masts; and

- (c) the relief sought in paragraphs 4.24, 4.29 and 4.40 of WEL's notice of appeal regarding amendments to rules EGEN-R1 and EGEN-R3 and the introduction of a new rule for Large-Scale Solar Farms.

[3] The following parts of the appeals in Topic 4.2 are not resolved by this Order:

- (a) the relief sought in paragraphs 21 and 22 of Meridian's notice of appeal regarding the All infrastructure (**AINF**) chapter rule AINF-R6(1) in respect to the minor upgrading of infrastructure; and
- (b) the relief sought in paragraphs 4.4, 4.9 and 4.21 of WEL's notice of appeal regarding policies AINF-P8 and AINF-P33 and rule AINF-R6(1).

Background

[4] The following parties gave notice of an interest to join the appeals under s 274 of the Act:

- (a) Te Whakakitenga o Waikato (**TWW**);
- (b) Mercury Energy Limited (**Mercury**); and
- (c) Genesis Energy Limited (**Genesis**).

[5] Mercury later withdrew its interest in Topic 4.2.

[6] TWW's interest was limited to paragraph 4.40 of WEL's appeal which sought to include a new rule relating to Large-Scale Solar Farms. It opposed the relief sought on the basis it does not give effect to ss 6-8 of the RMA and a discretionary activity status is not appropriate in respect to recognising and providing for Identified Areas.

[7] Genesis' interest was also limited to paragraph 4.40 of WEL's appeal. However, Genesis supported the relief sought on the basis it was consistent with the provisions of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity (**NPS-REG**), Waikato Regional Policy Statement and the PDP. It noted the effects of solar farms are well

understood and therefore a restricted discretionary activity status for Large-Scale Solar Farms within the GRUZ is appropriate.

Agreement reached

[8] The parties have agreed to the following changes to the PDP:

- (a) amend EGEN-R1 to remove reference to community-scale generation and to include a maximum height control for ground mounted solar frames as a permitted activity (being 3m);
- (b) amend EGEN-R2 to remove reference to small-scale electricity generation, make the rule applicable to all zones, and to specifically exclude ground mounted solar panels from the scope of the rule;
- (c) insert new rule EGEN-R2A to provide for community-scale solar electricity generation attached to ground mounted frames within specified zones;
- (d) insert new rule EGEN-R2B to provide for community-scale solar electricity attached to ground mounted frames in all zones not listed in rule EGEN-R2B;
- (e) amend rule EGEN-R3 to provide for meteorological measurement masts as a permitted activity when specific standards are met, and consequential amendments to rules MET-R1 and MET-R2 to exclude such an activity from the scope of those rules;
- (f) amend rule EGEN-R3(1)(a)(vi) to provide for REG investigations to be undertaken on formed or unformed roads;
- (g) amend rule EGEN-R6 to provide for Large-Scale Wind Farms within the GRUZ as a discretionary or non-complying activity depending on their location in relation to areas identified in rule EGEN-R6(2)(a);
- (h) amend rule EGEN-R7 to shift the wind turbine noise standard reference from within the activity heading to an activity specific standard;

- (i) replace rule EGEN-R8 (which currently provides for Large-Scale Wind Farms and is made redundant by the amendment to rule EGEN-R6) with a rule providing for Large-Scale Solar Farms as a restricted discretionary activity when located inside the GRUZ but outside Identified Areas;
- (j) insert new rule EGEN-R9 to provide for Large-Scale Solar Farms in the GRUZ as a discretionary or non-complying activity depending on the location of the proposed solar farm;
- (k) insert new rule EGEN-R10 to provide for Large-Scale Solar Farms as a non-complying activity when located outside the GRUZ; and
- (l) insert definitions for ‘Coastal environment’ and ‘Large-Scale Solar Farm’ in the Interpretation chapter of the PDP.

Definition of ‘coastal environment’

[9] On 15 April 2025, the Court issued a Minute raising concerns regarding jurisdiction to include the proposed definition of ‘coastal environment’ on the basis that this relief was not sought in any appeal nor submission by the appellants.

[10] The parties filed a response on 2 May 2025. They advised that to resolve Meridian’s appeal, it was agreed that while discretionary activity status could be adopted as sought for some Identified Areas, non-complying activity status should be retained in other Identified Areas. The parties agreed that the latter should include Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding Natural Character, Outstanding Natural Features, and Outstanding Natural Landscapes, within the coastal environment.

[11] These amendments mean that whether a site is located within the coastal environment could be a relevant determinant of activity status. As a consequential amendment, a definition of ‘coastal environment’ is proposed to be included in the PDP. Accordingly, the parties consider that the proposed definition is necessary and desirable and could be foreseen as a logical consequence of providing for a less restrictive activity status for activities located in the GRUZ within Identified Areas

outside the coastal environment, to provide certainty to plan users as to the applicable activity status.

[12] The parties propose to define ‘coastal environment’ as “an area located within the Coastal Environment overlay shown on the planning maps.” They also advised that:

- (a) a Coastal Environment overlay has been included in the planning maps since the PDP was notified, and the parties do not propose to make any adjustments to the spatial extent of that overlay;
- (b) the term ‘coastal environment’ is used in several existing PDP provisions, for which a plan user is required to refer to the mapped Coastal Environment overlay to determine whether a particular area falls within the coastal environment;
- (c) including a reference to that existing overlay in a new definition of ‘coastal environment’ clarifies how the Coastal Environment overlay already applies, and the parties consider that there will be no change to the application of those existing provisions, or any unintended consequences; and
- (d) the RPS includes a spatial overlay for the coastal environment, and the Coastal Environment overlay included in the PDP adopts that equivalent RPS map. The definition of ‘coastal environment’ in the Coastal Plan cross-references back to the RPS definition.

[13] For these reasons, the parties consider that the proposed definition is consistent with both the RPS and Coastal Plan and can be included in the PDP as sought. I discuss subsequent developments later in this decision.

Meteorological measurement masts

[14] The Court’s Minute also sought clarification from the parties as to whether the proposed amendment to EGEN-R3, to provide for wind measurement masts up

to 80m in height in the GRUZ in comparison to the existing 20m height limit, is sufficient for the suitable management of potential effects of such structures.

[15] The parties explained that Meridian's appeal point sought amendments to permit exploratory equipment for renewable electricity generation activities in the GRUZ, of up to 80m in height. The reasons for this appeal point are as follows:

- (a) the existing 20m height limit is unrealistically low for the type of investigation masts required to obtain meaningful data. As the rule is specific to renewable electricity generation activities, the standards should reflect what is realistically required for such investigations;
- (b) masts used for wind investigation are normally pole and wire configurations, which can be tall but are easily assimilated into the remote prospecting environments that investigations generally take place in;
- (c) wind investigation masts are temporary structures that are in place for a relatively short period of time (up to five years); and
- (d) the proposed approach is consistent with that of other councils in New Zealand that have adopted a maximum permitted height of around 80m for meteorological masts in their district plans e.g., South Taranaki (80m), Auckland (90m), Rangitikei (80m) and Ruapehu (80m).

[16] The parties note for completeness that (as part of the WEL appeal) amendments to the standards are proposed in relation to formed or unformed roads. Existing standards relating to height in relation to boundaries, noise limits, and Identified Areas continue to apply.

[17] The parties advised that wind measurement masts do not have any moving components, and the potential effects are largely limited to landscape and visual effects. The parties consider that the proposed standards are sufficient to enable the potential effects of 80m masts to be suitably managed, including for the following reasons:

- (a) masts will generally be in place for a short duration, meaning that any effects will be temporary. A five-year time limit is secured by way of a new standard, after which a resource consent will need to be applied for. This ensures that the masts are in place for a sufficient length of time to collect meteorological data, but ensures that any landscape and visual effects are not permanent;
- (b) restricting such masts to the GRUZ means that the surrounding activities are generally less sensitive to visual effects that may arise;
- (c) masts are generally slim structures that are typically located away from public viewing locations and sensitive areas. There is an existing standard requiring masts to be located outside Identified Areas, and an amended setback standard is proposed that requires masts to be set back a minimum distance equivalent to three times the height of the mast. These standards ensure that unless resource consent is obtained, masts must have long viewing distances and cannot be located within sensitive areas; and
- (d) a new standard is proposed requiring a minimum 2km distance between masts, which the parties consider will limit the number of masts in an area and avoid clustering, to reduce visual effects. In conjunction with the setback standards discussed above, this separation standard ensures that the landscape/visual effects of 80m masts are sufficiently managed and can be assimilated into the surrounding rural environment.

[18] For these reasons, the parties consider that the proposed standards will suitably manage the potential effects of permitted wind measurement masts, and the PDP can be amended as sought.

Statutory Planning Assessment

[19] The parties have considered the statutory framework applicable to plan changes under the Act and are of the view that the agreed amendments satisfy the relevant statutory requirements. A full statutory planning assessment is contained in the

consent memorandum filed in support of this Order. As the matters resolved in this Order pertain to electricity generation, the NPS-REG is considered a key document which must be given effect to and a summary of how the changes give effect to the NPS-REG is provided below.

[20] The NPS-REG sets out an overarching objective and policies (including of relevance Policies A, C1, E1, F and G) to enable the sustainable management of renewable electricity generation, including:

- (a) to recognise and provide for the national significance of REG activities;
- (b) to provide for the development (including investigation), operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing REG activities in district plans, including small and community-scale REG activities; and
- (c) to have regard to the need to locate such activities where the renewable energy resource is available and logistical and technical practicalities of these activities.

[21] The amendments sought are consistent with the relevant provisions of the NPS-REG, in providing for the development, operation and maintenance of wind and solar REG activities either as a restricted discretionary, discretionary, or non-complying activity status.

Section 32AA assessment

[22] Section 32AA of the Act requires a further evaluation of any changes to the proposed plan change since the initial s 32 evaluation report and the Decision.

[23] The Council has prepared a stand-alone s 32AA evaluation, which is included in Appendix C to the memorandum filed in support of this Order. For clarity, the s 32AA evaluation is split into three parts: research and investigation, large-scale wind and solar farms, and small-scale and community-scale ground mounted solar REG.

[24] The consent memorandum summarises the evaluation for each topic and is not repeated here. For each topic, the evaluation concludes that the proposed

amendments are the most appropriate way to achieve both the purpose of the Act and the objectives of the proposal.

Consideration

[25] I have now read and considered:

- (a) the consent memorandum of the parties dated 17 March 2025 which proposes to resolve the appeal points outlined at paragraph [2] above;
- (b) the appellants' notices of appeal;
- (c) the s 32AA assessment prepared by the Council; and
- (d) the joint memorandum of the parties dated 2 May 2025.

[26] I make this Order under s 279(1) of the Act, such order being by consent, rather than representing a decision or determination on the merits. I understand for present purposes that:

- (a) all parties to the proceedings have executed the memorandum requesting this Order; and
- (b) all parties are satisfied that all matters proposed for the court's endorsement fall within the Court's jurisdiction, and conform to the relevant requirements and objectives of the Act including, in particular, Part 2.

[27] I am satisfied that the agreement reached is one that represents the various interests of the parties. It is clear the parties have considered other reasonably practicable options and assessed costs and benefits.

[28] I have examined the extended explanation for the increased weather measurement masts. This indicates that for construction of wind generators, wind measurement masts must be designed to calculate wind conditions above ground accurately and efficiently. I accept that these are generally inobtrusive within the GRUZ and there are separation and other requirements that minimise impact. In the

circumstances I approve EGEN R3(1)(a)(vii) allowing meteorological masts to 80m in some circumstances.

[29] I considered that the reference to ‘coastal environments’ and the proposal for a definition which defined the term as “coastal environments shown in the planning maps” as unduly clumsy. I asked staff to enquire whether a simple reference to “Coastal Environment Overlays in the planning maps” could achieve the same result.

[30] Subsequent emails from the parties agree and the Council has filed an amended **Appendix A** now appended to this decision. I approve the changes accordingly. Finally, all parties who did not sign the joint memorandum dated 2 May 2025 have confirmed by email that they agree with the settlement.

[31] On this basis I conclude that the agreed amendments are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act and the objectives in the Plan. Overall, I consider the sustainable management purpose and the other relevant requirements of the Act are broadly met.

[32] I am satisfied that the changes sought are within the scope of Meridian and WEL’s submissions and appeals.

Orders

[33] Accordingly, under s 279(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Environment Court, by consent, orders that:

- (a) the Interpretation – definitions, EGEN – Electricity generation, and MET – Meteorological chapters of the proposed Waikato District Plan (Decisions Version) be amended as set out in **Appendix A** to this Order.

[34] Under s 285 of the Act there is no request for or order as to costs.

J A Smith

Environment Judge | Kaiwhakawā o te Kōti Taiao



Appendix A - Agreed Amendments with Track Changes

Amendment to Part 2: District-wide matters /Energy, infrastructure and transport/ EGEN - Electricity generation

EGEN-RI	Small-scale electricity generation	
All zones	<p>(1) Activity status: PER Activity-specific standards: (a) Small-scale electricity generation and community-scale electricity generation that complies with each of the following standards, where applicable: (i) Is not located within an Identified Area; (ii) Is not located on unformed road; ... (ix) Solar panels on the roof of a building must not exceed 1.5m in height above the existing roof; or <u>if attached to a ground mounted frame, must not exceed 3m in height above ground;</u> ... (xi) All other structures not listed above must not be higher than the maximum building height limit of the zone in which they are located.</p>	<p>(2) Activity status where compliance not achieved: RDIS Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters: (a) The functional and operational needs of, and benefits derived from, the infrastructure; (b) Visual, landscape, streetscape and amenity effects, including noise; (c) Shadow flicker effects; (d) The risk of hazards affecting public or individual safety, and risk of property damage; (e) Effects on the values, qualities and characteristics of any Identified Area; and (f) Ecology and biodiversity effects.</p>
EGEN-R2	Community-scale electricity generation <u>(excluding solar attached to a ground mounted frame)</u>	
All zones GRUZ General rural zone	<p>(1) Activity status: PER Activity-specific standards: (a) Small-scale electricity generation and Community-scale electricity generation that complies with each of the following standards, where applicable: (i) Is not located within an Identified Area; (ii) Is not located on unformed road; ... (ix) Solar panels on the roof of a building must not exceed 1.5m in height above the existing roof; or attached to a ground mounted frame; ... (xi) All other structures not listed above must not be higher than the maximum building height limit of the zone in which they are located.</p> <p><u>Advice Note:</u> <u>Rule EGEN-R2 does not apply to Community-scale electricity generation – solar attached to a ground mounted frame (refer EGEN-R2A).</u></p>	<p>(2) Activity status where compliance not achieved: RDIS Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters: (a) The functional and operational needs of, and benefits derived from, the infrastructure; (b) Visual, landscape, streetscape and amenity effects, including noise; (c) Shadow flicker effects; (d) The risk of hazards affecting public or individual safety, and risk of property damage; (e) Effects on the values, qualities and characteristics of any Identified Area; and (f) Ecology and biodiversity effects.</p>
EGEN-R2A	Community-scale electricity generation – solar attached to a ground mounted frame	

<p>GRUZ – General Rural Zone, HIZ – Heavy Industrial Zone, GIZ – General Industrial Zone</p>	<p>(1) Activity status: PER Activity-specific standards: (a) <u>Community-scale electricity solar generation attached to ground mounted frames that complies with each of the following:</u> (i) <u>Is not located within an Identified Area;</u> (ii) <u>Is not located on unformed road;</u> (iii) <u>Does not exceed 3m in height above ground;</u> (iv) <u>The maximum cumulative surface area of the solar panels is 200m² per site;</u> (v) <u>All structures are setback 10m from the boundary of any other site in different ownership or road boundary;</u> (vi) <u>Is not located on High Class Soils in the GRUZ – General Rural Zone;</u> (vii) <u>Will not exceed the relevant noise limits that are applicable to that zone;</u> (viii) <u>Complies with AINF-R3 (Any activity emitting electric and magnetic fields);</u> (ix) <u>not have a reflectivity value greater than 30%;</u> (x) <u>not be located in:</u> A. <u>High Risk Flood Area;</u> B. <u>High Risk Coastal Inundation Area; or</u> C. <u>High Risk Coastal Erosion Area.</u> (xi) <u>Screening (for example, fencing or landscaping) is provided if the panels are visible from a state highway or railway corridor within 25m distance from the panels.</u></p>	<p>(2) Activity status: CON . Where: (a) <u>Community-scale solar panels attached to a ground mounted frame that do not comply with Rule EGEN-R2A(1)(a)(iv) but comply with all other standards of Rule EGEN-R2A(1)(a)) and comply with the following standards:</u> (i) <u>The maximum cumulative surface area of the solar panels is 5,000m² per site; and</u> (ii) <u>All structures are setback from the boundary of any other site in different ownership as follows:</u> A. <u>LLRZ – Large lot residential zone, GRZ – General residential zone, MRZ – Medium density residential zone, SETZ – Settlement zone, RPZ – Rangitahi peninsula zone and RLZ – Rural lifestyle zone: 100m</u> B. <u>Any other zone: 24m</u> Matters of control are limited to: (b) <u>The functional and operational needs of, and benefits derived from, the infrastructure;</u> (c) <u>Visual, landscape, streetscape and amenity effects, including noise;</u> (d) <u>Glint and glare effects;</u> (e) <u>The risk of hazards affecting public or individual safety, and risk of property damage (including stormwater management).</u> (3) Activity status: RDIS Where: (a) <u>Community-scale solar panels attached to a ground mounted frame that do not comply with Rule EGEN-R2A(2) and are located outside a High Risk Coastal Inundation Area and/or High Risk Coastal Erosion Area.</u> Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters: (b) <u>The functional and operational needs of, and benefits derived from, the infrastructure;</u> (c) <u>Visual, landscape, streetscape and amenity effects, including noise;</u> (d) <u>Glint and glare effects;</u> (e) <u>The risk of hazards affecting public or individual safety, and risk of property damage (including stormwater management);</u></p>
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		<p>(f) <u>Effects on the values, qualities and characteristics of any Identified Area;</u></p> <p>(g) <u>Ecology and Biodiversity effects;</u></p> <p>(h) <u>If proposed to be located in a High Flood Area, the matters of discretion set out in Rule NH-R16; and</u></p> <p>(i) <u>Effects on land productivity (also high class soils).</u></p> <p>(4) Activity status: DIS</p> <p>Where</p> <p>(a) <u>Community-scale solar panels attached to a ground mounted frame located in a High Risk Coastal Inundation Area or a High Risk Coastal Erosion Area.</u></p>
EGEN-R2B	Community-scale solar electricity generation – attached to a ground mounted frame	
All zones not listed in EGEN-R2A	<p>(1) Activity status: RDIS</p> <p>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters:</p> <p>(a) <u>The functional operational needs of, and benefits derived from, the infrastructure;</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Visual, landscape, streetscape and amenity effects, including noise;</u></p> <p>(c) <u>Glint and glare effects;</u></p> <p>(d) <u>The risk of hazards affecting public or individual safety, and risk of property damage (including stormwater management);</u></p> <p>(e) <u>Effects on the values, qualities and characteristics of any Identified Area; and</u></p> <p>(f) <u>Ecology and Biodiversity effects.</u></p>	
EGEN-R3	Research and exploratory-scale investigations for renewable electricity generation activities	
All zones	<p>(1) Activity status (PER)</p> <p>Activity-specific standards:</p> <p>(a) Research and exploratory-scale investigations for renewable electricity generation activities that comply with all of the following:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(ii) <u>The height of any equipment (excluding meteorological measurement masts, refer (vii) below) must not exceed the building height limit of the zone in which they are located by more than 3m, or within the GRUZ – General rural zone must not exceed 20m total height measured from the natural ground level immediately below the structure;</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>(iv) <u>Setbacks relevant to the zone in which it is located (excluding meteorological measurement masts, refer (vii) below);</u></p> <p>(v) <u>Is not located within an Identified Area; and</u></p> <p>(vi) <u>Is not if located on a road, or unformed road:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Do not exceed the building height limit of the closest zone</u></p>	<p>(2) Activity status where compliance not achieved: RDIS</p> <p>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters:</p> <p>...</p>

	<p><u>immediately adjoining the road or unformed road in which they are located by more than 3m. Where there are two different zones adjacent to the road, the adjacent zone extends to the centre line of the road;</u></p> <p>B. <u>All structures are setback at least 0.5 1.0m from the edge of any formed road; and</u></p> <p>C. <u>All structures must be removed within 12 months of their installation.</u></p> <p>(vii) <u>In addition to the above, meteorological measurement masts must comply with the following standards:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Maximum height: 80m total height measured from the natural ground level immediately below the structure;</u></p> <p>B. <u>Minimum mast setbacks from the site boundaries: A minimum distance equivalent to 3x the height of the mast;</u></p> <p>C. <u>Maximum duration of activity: The Structure must be removed within 5 years of installation;</u></p> <p>D. <u>The masts must be within the GRUZ; and</u></p> <p>E. <u>The minimum distance between masts is 2km.</u></p>	
EGEN-R6	<p><u>Any Large-scale wind farms located within the GRUZ – General rural zone, not within an Identified Area.</u></p> <p>Wind turbine noise must be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise</p>	
GRUZ – General Rural Zone	<p>(1) Activity status: DIS</p> <p><u>Activity specific standards:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>The Large-Scale Wind Farm is not located wholly or partially within any Identified Area specified in Rule EGEN-R6(2)(a); and</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Wind turbine noise must be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise.</u></p>	<p>(2) <u>Activity status: NC</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>The Large-Scale Wind Farm is located wholly or partially within any of the following Identified Area(s):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Urban Expansion Area;</u> <u>Sites or Areas of Significance to Maaori; or</u> <u>Notable Trees; or</u> <u>Within the Coastal Environment Overlay on</u>

		<p><u>the planning maps</u>, within any:</p> <p>A. <u>Significant Natural Area</u>; or</p> <p>B. <u>Outstanding Natural Character</u>; or</p> <p>C. <u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>; or</p> <p>D. <u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>.</p> <p><u>Activity specific standards:</u> (b) <u>Wind turbine noise must be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise.</u></p>
EGEN-R7	<p>Large-scale wind farms located in a zone other than the GRUZ - General rural zone. Wind turbine noise must be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise</p>	
All zones	<p>(I) Activity status: NC</p> <p><u>Activity specific standards:</u> (a) <u>Wind turbine noise must be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise.</u></p>	
EGEN-R8	<p><u>Any Large-Scale Solar Farm located within the GRUZ – General rural zone, not within an Identified Area</u> Large-scale wind farm located within any Identified Area in the GRUZ – General rural zone. Wind turbine noise must be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise</p>	
GRUZ – General Rural Zone	<p>Activity status: NC <u>(I) Activity status: RDIS</u> Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters: (a) <u>The functional and operational needs of, and benefits derived from, the infrastructure;</u> (b) <u>Visual, landscape, amenity and glint and glare effects;</u> (c) <u>Electric and magnetic field effects;</u> (d) <u>Noise effects during construction and operation;</u> (e) <u>Ecology and biodiversity effects;</u> (f) <u>Effects on the values, qualities and characteristics of any Identified Area;</u> (g) <u>Traffic effects during construction and operation;</u> (h) <u>Effects on land productivity (also high-class soils);</u> (i) <u>Reverse sensitivity effects;</u> (j) <u>Effects on cultural values;</u> (k) <u>Effects on heritage and archaeology;</u> (l) <u>Cumulative effects; and</u> (m) <u>The risk of hazards affecting public or individual safety, and risk of property damage (including stormwater management)</u></p>	
EGEN-R9	<p><u>Any Large-Scale Solar Farm located within the GRUZ – General rural zone within an Identified Area</u></p>	
GRUZ – General Rural Zone	<p><u>(I) Activity status: DIS</u></p> <p><u>Activity specific standards:</u></p>	<p><u>2. Activity status: NC</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u> (a) <u>The Large-Scale Solar Farm is located wholly or partially within any of the following Identified Area(s):</u></p>

	(a) <u>The Large-Scale Solar Farm is not located within any Identified Area specified in Rule EGEN-R9.2.</u>	(ii) <u>Urban Expansion Area;</u> (iii) <u>Sites or Areas of Significance to Maaori; or</u> (iv) <u>Notable Trees; or</u> (v) <u>Within any of the following Identified Area(s) within the Coastal Environment Overlay on the planning maps, within any:</u> A. <u>Significant Natural Area;</u> B. <u>Outstanding Natural Character;</u> C. <u>Outstanding Natural Feature; or</u> D. <u>Outstanding Natural Landscape.</u>
EGEN-R10	<u>Any Large-Scale Solar Farm located in a zone other than the GRUZ - General rural zone.</u>	
<u>All zones</u>	(I) Activity status: NC	

Amendment to Part 2: District-wide matters /Energy, infrastructure and transport/ MET - Meteorological

MET-R1	Meteorological enclosures and buildings, including automatic weather stations (<u>excluding those for research and exploratory-scale investigations for renewable electricity in EGEN -R3</u>)	
All zones	(I) Activity status: PER Activity-specific standards: (a) Meteorological enclosures and buildings, including automatic weather stations, that comply with all of the following: i. The size of the structure must not exceed 30m ² in gross floor area; ii. The structure complies with any relevant building height standard for the applicable zone; iii. Is not located within an Identified Area; and iv. Is not located on a road, or unformed road.	(2) Activity status where compliance not achieved: DIS
MET-R2	Meteorological and air quality monitoring structures and devices (<u>excluding those for research and exploratory-scale investigations for renewable electricity, in EGEN -R3</u>)	
All zones	(I) Activity status: PER Activity-specific standards: (a) Meteorological and air quality monitoring structures and devices that comply with all of the following: i. Do not exceed 12m in height measured from the natural ground level immediately below the structure; ii. There shall be no more than one structure per site; iii. Is not located within an Identified Area;	(2) Activity status where compliance not achieved: DIS

	iv.Is not located on a road, or unformed road; v.Maximum area is 10m ²	
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Amendment to Part I: Introduction and general provisions / Interpretation / Definitions

Term	Definition
<u>Coastal Environment</u>	Means an area located within the Coastal Environment overlay shown on the planning maps;
<u>Large-Scale Solar Farm</u>	Means structures, access tracks and ancillary buildings used to generate electricity from the sun and convey the electricity (5MW or Greater) to an associated substation in order to supply to the immediate community (more than one site) and/or the national grid.