

20 August 2025
Ranfurly

There are many parts to this proposal that I find objectionable.
I would like to address a few that have made me conclude that it is an entirely
inappropriately sized utility project sited in an inappropriate place.

The Upper Taiari watershed contains unique species, habitats and landscapes that hold
enormous intrinsic value, as well as value to those who live here & those who visit.
If you were to visit the Scroll Plain, drive the backroads, cycle the Rail Trail or experience
the Dark Sky wonders, these thousands of photo-voltaic panels will be nothing but a
blight on the beauty and history of this wondrous place.

The panels and all the associated 'glint and glare' will be visible from great distances
across the Maniatoto, from the foothills & mountaintops of the Oteake Conservation Park,
Rough Ridge & the Rock and Pillars, as well as along the roads that we drive frequently.

The idea of decent screening with native landscaping is farcical in this environment. It is a
tough place to grow anything even with care & plenty of water and it doesn't happen in
3-5 years. The height of some of the known structures far exceeds the growth rate of
trees within the proposed life expectancy of the utility. It is not compatible with grazing,
how exactly is the grass going to grow in the shade & shelter of the panels?

The Helios proposal does not belong here, we do not stand to gain more or cheaper
energy production. The benefits of this huge solar farm to more than a handful of people
in our community are few. There are places in New Zealand that could use the power as
proposed, they also have ample insolation, some even more so than the Maniatoto.
Would there not be a more suitable site that also does not have to deal with the massive
line losses during transmission?

A private equity company as is Helios does not care for land or community, they can only
care for money. Claiming that 'regulations will be adhered to' is meaningless when there
are no regulations that address these massive projects involving new technologies,
significant amounts of toxic ingredients and hazardous waste into an unknown future.
Where are the regulations governing Best Practices for enforcing a complete clean up?
For ensuring proper de-commissioning and management of components at their end-of-
life? So far, too many overseas examples show companies walking away from any
responsibility. In fact companies are sold on or broken up so there is no one left to clean
up except the community that was dumped on.
Solar production on this scale is not a 'green revolution' It is greenwashing.

The Helios proposal does not belong here. I oppose the application for consent and
request it denied.

Thank you for your time.