

**BOARD OF INQUIRY
HAUAURU MA RAKI WIND FARM PROPOSAL**

In the matter of the Resource Management Act 1991

And

In the matter of resource consent applications by Contact Wind Limited in respect of the Hauāuru Mā Raki Wind Farm Proposal

And

In the matter of notices of requirement and a resource consent application by Contact Energy Limited for transmission infrastructure related to the Hauāuru Mā Raki Wind Farm Proposal

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE IN CHIEF OF THOMAS TAMATI FLAVELL

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Introduction

1. My name is **Thomas Tamati Flavell**. My iwi is Waikato-Tainui/Maniapoto. My hapū is Ngāti Tahinga.
2. I am a member of the Trust Committee for the Pukerewa A Block. I am also a shareholder of that block. The Pukerewa A Block is part of the proposed Hauāuru mā raki (“HMR”) Wind Farm.
3. The purpose of my evidence is to explain why we are participating in the HMR wind farm project and what I see are the benefits that will be created if it goes ahead.
4. I am not giving evidence for the rest of the Trust Committee or for the shareholders but I have shown this evidence to the other Trust Committee members so that I know that I have not got anything wrong and that they don’t disagree with what I am saying.
5. I have lived all my life in Tuakau. I am now retired (for health reasons) but my most recent job was as a dredge operator on the Waikato River, moving sand in the stretch of the river from Tuakau Bridge downstream.

Pukerewa A Block

6. The Pukerewa A Block is just over 1052 hectares. It is located just north of Crayfish Point. The southern boundary of the block is the boundary also of Franklin and Waikato District Councils. There are over 7700 shares in the block and at last count (in 2006) there were 183 shareholders.
7. As I have already said, I am a member of the Trust Committee that administers the block. The farm is run by a farm manager (Kim Buttery) and his two staff members. They live on the farm.
8. The farm is a dry stock operation running sheep and beef.
9. The Pukerewa Marae is located on a small block of land of its own but entirely surrounded by the Pukerewa Block A. The marae has its own committee that runs it. I am not on that Committee but all of the shareholders of Pukerewa A Block are members of the marae.
10. The plans Contact Wind Limited has prepared show 19 wind turbines on the Pukerewa A Block plus 1 turbine on the marae site (E006-E022, F004-F006 on Plan 6 attached to the consent applications).

11. The farm has been doing reasonably well in the last few years. It has been able to pay a dividend to shareholders for the last 6 years, but spread between over 180 shareholders, it does not go very far.

Participating in Wind Farm Project

12. Although I was not on the Trust Committee at the time, my understanding is that Al Yates of Wind Farm Group approached the Committee at the beginning of 2006. He had already talked to the marae late in 2005. The then Trust Committee Chairman, Matt Preston, told me about the idea that wind turbines might be put on the Pukerewa A Block. I know also that he and three other Trust Committee members went down to Palmerston North to have a look at the Te Apiti and Tararua wind farms there, so we would have a better idea of what we were getting ourselves into.
13. When Matt Preston told me about it, I was initially a little apprehensive about whether it would adversely affect the farm. Having talked to people and thought about it, I decided it was a good idea. At the time, the roads on the farm were badly in need of repair and I thought that if a wind farm developer was going to come in and construct roads, that would make it much easier for the farm manager and his team to get around the place.
14. Obviously, more income for the shareholders is also a good idea.

Working Party Process

15. As part of the development of the HMR wind farm project, I participated in a working party to look at things from an iwi perspective. Richard Thompson and Paul Brown (also Ngāti Tahinga) and Selwyn Shaw from the Huakina Development Trust were also involved.
16. The initial meetings of the working party were at Tuakau. Our first meeting was in July 2007. Part of our strategy was to prepare a cultural values assessment. Richard Thompson was the author of that assessment. Another part of our strategy was to establish a good history timeline for the area.
17. The working party took a tour of all the farms where wind turbine sites were located. Rod Clough and Barry Baquie, the archaeologists advising Contact Wind Limited came with us, along with Al Yates and Mark Chrisp of Environmental Management Services. We were looking for historical sites – graves, middens, pa sites and pits. When we found something, we had a

chat about how close the wind farm could come to it. We took a whole lot of maps and GPS locators so when we found something, we would know exactly where it was later. It was a long day but we agreed everything on the spot. As a result, the project plan was altered in a number of places. For example, a road was moved off a pa site on the Jacksons' farm, in between turbines I013 and I012 (on Consent Plan 10) and a turbine site was moved away from pits on the Whitfords' farm, near turbine E001 (on Consent Plan 6).

18. The working party also had a look at the transmission line route where it crosses over the back of the farm. We did not have any issues with it.
19. The working party covered the entire wind farm site. That means that we went on to Joe and John Jackson's farm at Te Akau, where there is an overlap between areas of interest to Ngāti Tahinga and to Tainui Awhiro. As far as I am concerned, there is no hard line or boundary between the two hapu.

Shareholder Approval Process

20. We have had a series of meetings of shareholders to discuss the wind farm proposal, and to get a better idea of exactly what is proposed.
21. The initial proposal was for 12 or 13 turbines to be put on the farm. Once the shareholders got a better idea of what was proposed and got comfortable with the idea, we asked the developer if we could have more turbines around the marae. That is the reason why there are now 19 turbines on the block (plus the one proposed actually on the marae site).
22. We formally agreed to participate at a meeting in December 2006. Forty-two shareholders attended that meeting (a quorum) and everyone present voted in favour of participating.
23. There have been more meetings of shareholders since then. I believe that hardly any shareholders are now opposed to our participating. I have also talked to the farm staff who support our participating. They can see the new roads which will be put in for the purposes of the wind farm making their working lives a lot easier.

Effects of the Wind Farm

24. I have already talked about the economic benefits to the shareholders if the HMR wind farm goes ahead. The income it generates will depend on the number of turbines located on the farm, the size of those turbines and the power price. We hope that income from the wind farm will be between six or eight times the dividends the farm is currently producing for the shareholders and that will make a big difference to everybody.
25. I don't have a particular problem with the way the turbines look and in fact I think they could be a bit of an attraction for the place.
26. I don't see a cultural issue with the turbines. Obviously it is important to stay off important historic sites, but I am comfortable that the working party I was involved in has made sure that that will be taken care of. There is also a protocol the working party agreed on which sorts out what will happen if any pits or remains are found during construction.
27. I also think that the road improvements that will occur with the wind farm project will be really valuable. At the moment you can't rely on getting up the road to the urupā for important events like a tangi.
28. Finally, I should say that we have been in the wind farming business for a long time already. For as long as I remember, there has been a wind turbine on the farm, pumping water up to one of our ponds. This project is a lot bigger than that, but it is important to our shareholders that it goes ahead.

TT Flavell