

**Kim Morgan**

**From:** Phil McCabe [phil@solscape.co.nz]  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 April 2009 4:49 p.m.  
**To:** Kim Morgan  
**Subject:** Evidence for Phil McCabe

My evidence and views opposing the proposed wind farm, in its entirety, is as follows.

**7th Generation**

Hello, it is my view that all consideration should be given to the 7th Generation. That is 7 generations from our own. Ensuring that they inherit a healthy land, healthy water, healthy air and just

social conditions. The country that they are born into must be brimming with natural treasures and intact resources as it was when we were born into it.

Any proposal that does not step towards this becoming a reality is a proposal that is stealing from the purse of future generations. We must, **MUST** always use best practice and do not divert from the path of creating the brightest possibilities for our future generations.

I make this submission in the belief that it would be an act of gross negligence against the environment and the rights of past present and future generations of New Zealanders, if this board granted consent to this wind farm proposal. The destruction of the Natural Environment of a large coastal area and the significant alteration to the relationship between 'the place' and 'the people' of the area are my 2 main areas of concern.

It is my belief that any official that allows such an obviously flawed proposal to pass will in due course be held liable for such negligence by future leaders who will be left responsible for the clean up.

I am involved in a community group called Transition Towns Whaingaroa. This is a grass roots, community level, global movement which addresses the global issues of climate change, peak oil and economic instability at a community level. The focus is on re-localization. Providing for more of our needs from within the community rather than relying entirely on outside for our survival. In a phrase it is about "Making the transition from oil dependence to local resilience."

This proposal is in direct conflict with the principles behind the Transition Towns movement. Our community group has been looking into alternative renewable energy sources that are community owned and run from within the community. Sean Cox's evidence clearly outlines some of the possibilities for community owned power generation that would better address national power supply problems than this monstrous proposal.

This proposal would assist in lining the New Zealand public up for a few more decades of an economic model which is, before our very eyes, melting down due to the unsustainability of its very nature.

New Zealand does not need to produce more power, it needs to reduce its demand.

Let's take this proposal as an example. The proposed cost of the proposed wind farm is in the vicinity of \$1.5 billion NZ.

Let's take that money and put it into solar hot water heaters.

An average home would require a 300 litre system. The average cost to install a system of this size is \$7500. A supplier I spoke with is quoting a job for 300 systems at present and it will come to \$6000 per system installed.

If we had \$1.5 billion dollars to buy solar hot water systems we should surely be able to get a better deal again. Let's be conservative and say \$5000 installed. This would buy 300,000 domestic 300 litre solar hot water systems. Each of these systems is expected to save, on average, 2600kwh per annum. 300,000 systems would save 780mwh per annum.

This would also save the households that have those systems in excess of \$500 per annum in power bills.

The corporate imperative for profits today and growth in profits tomorrow is an oppressive model that is out dated and will no longer be tolerated by the emerging generations of this nation.

Personal and community loss of livelihoods put at risk.

-I have over 20 years experience in the service industry including 15 years in tourism based service. I have lived in Raglan, on the Whaanga coast since January 1995. I, and the many friends and relatives who have visited me over the years have enjoyed the untainted vistas of the coast north of Raglan. There are no visible dwellings and no lights, nothing manmade!

-When I moved here in 1995 there were 2 fish and chip shops, a cafe and the pub. There are now 15 eateries in the main centre of Raglan. This indicates the dependence that the economy of Raglan has on tourism.

-Solscape Eco Retreat, at 611 Wainui Road has been under our care and guidance for 6.5 yrs.

-Established as an accom centre in early 90's.

-We employ 2 people on a full time basis and up to 8 local residents on a part time basis.

-We have a turnover approaching \$350,000 Gross per annum.

-A large portion of that income is distributed into the local economy through buying local goods and services.

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- The proposed wind farm would have very serious negative effects to the financial and 'quality' value of our property
  - Our site looks directly at the proposed wind farm site.
  - We have a diverse range of visitors for diverse periods of time for a diverse range of reasons.
  - In excess of 6000 visitors per annum and rising.
  - We have increased turnover by around 300% in 6 years.
  - All visitors arrive at a site where the dominant aspect of the landscape is the natural environment. There is no man made dominant feature and they are very pleased by this. They, by and large, come from areas where man made structures dominate the landscape and they are here to get away from that reality.
  - We market ourselves as an eco retreat and we do not believe in green washing but in real initiatives and best practice. Not 'perceived' best practice, not 2nd best practice but taking steps that have the best benefits to the environment and the community and the planet as a whole.
  - I am not a technical expert but according to the reading that I have done on wind farms and their effectiveness in addressing power supply issues is that they are marginal at best. This is not 'best practice'!
  - Some may argue that this Wind Farm proposal would be good for tourism. This proposal is not good for the local environment, it is not good for the global environment and it is not good for the local nor the national community. This proposal would not be good for tourism.
  - I, with my experience and very close relationship with the budding tourism industry here in Raglan, stand here and tell you that the proposal we are here to talk about would have extensive and irretrievable negative effects on tourism in this community.
  - The size of the turbines, the placement of the turbines and the number of turbines would make them unquestionably the dominant feature of the landscape. This would create an instant and irreversible alteration to the relationship between 'we', the inhabitants and visitors of 'this place', and 'this place'. Humans have a relationship with 'this place' which goes back many centuries.
  - The company who seeks consent to construct this wind farm is a corporation that is largely offshore owned who have no connection to 'this place' whatsoever, not past and not present. They wish to have a relationship with 'this place' in the future only to decimate the landscape and strip the consumers of their hard earned \$\$'s and export that money off shore. There is no gain to New Zealand and there is no gain to New Zealanders to be had from this proposal.
  - The computer generated images supposedly showing how the wind farm would appear is a conscious gross misrepresentation by the applicant intended to mislead and subdue the public.
  - By and large, the visitors that we have visiting Raglan are not the same ones that visit the main tourist centres and they are here for different reasons. Namely the natural environment, surfing, the arts, rugged and raw beaches and the very unique atmosphere that Raglan permeates to the world.
  - This proposal would alter the image of this destination to the detriment of all involved with the town.
  - Thousands upon thousands of people enjoy this stretch of coastline for its natural beauty throughout the year and we look straight into the eye of this proposal.
- THIS PROPOSAL MUST NOT GO AHEAD!**

Yours sincerely

Phil McCabe