

BOARD OF INQUIRY

HAUĀURU MĀ 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

**FURTHER REBUTTAL EVIDENCE OF RICHARD SEATON
RESPONDING TO THE EVIDENCE OF MALIBU HAMILTON**

Counsel Instructed:
Trevor Robinson
Wellington

Tel 64-4-472 1755. Fax 64-4-472 1766. PO Box 8018 Wellington
trobinson@xtra.co.nz

Solicitor Acting:
H Rosemary Dixon
Contact Energy Limited

Telephone 64-4-462 1284. PO Box 10742, Wellington
rosemary.dixon@contact-energy.co.nz

Introduction

1. My name is Richard Seaton. I am an ornithologist currently employed by Golder Associates (NZ) Limited.
2. I refer the Board of Inquiry to the statement of my qualifications and experience in my evidence in chief. I reaffirm my commitment to comply with the code of conduct for expert witnesses in the Environment Court.
3. The purpose of this brief of evidence is to respond to the evidence of Mr Malibu Hamilton (on behalf of Tainui Awhiro) relating to the effects of the HMR wind farm on the flight patterns of migratory birds.

Evidence of Mr Hamilton

4. At paragraph 80 of his evidence, Mr Hamilton states:

“...there is the potential for the migrating birds to alter their flight patterns through learned behaviour after a period of years and not congregate at Kawhia, Aotea and Raglan harbours in the immediate coast, nor congregate at Port Waikato and the Manukau harbour...”

5. With respect to Mr Hamilton, I disagree with that statement. Although displacement of migratory flight paths around the HMR wind farm may occur once it is constructed, I consider it to be highly unlikely that the wind farm would form such a barrier that the ultimate destination of migratory birds moving through the area would be altered. All of the shorebird species that migrate internally do so between summer breeding grounds to the south, and winter feeding grounds to the north. These areas will not be affected by the construction of the HMR wind farm. Therefore, in my opinion, in the event that the HMR wind farm is constructed, birds will continue to congregate at the Kawhia, Aotea, Raglan, Port Waikato and Manukau harbours, as they do now.

R Seaton