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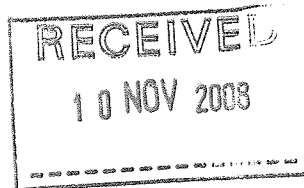
**FAX**

**To: Rosmary Dixon  
Contact Energy**

**From: John Carr**

I realise this submission is a few days late but I have been trying unsuccessfully to send it electronically to no avail.

Resorting to the faithful Fax.



## **Submission with respect of the proposed Contact Energy Wind Farm South of Port Waikato**

**Submitter:** John Carr 1 Cobourne Place Port Waikato RD% Tuakau

### **Introduction**

As a Port Waikato resident I have some grave concerns regarding the proposed sighting of the Contact Energy Limited wind farm to the South of Port Waikato, and the lengthy use of and modification to our neighboring roads to accommodate the construction of the facility.

For those of us who have chosen to live at Port Waikato the attractions were the unspoilt natural landscapes, the river, the west coast beaches and the laid back rural community lifestyle. In fact the whole area from the Tuakau bridge through to Limestone Downs could be considered a unique, natural and at times spectacular example of natural New Zealand landscapes. The area is also littered with archaeological sites of cultural and historic importance.

My submission is not against the whole of the wind farm but rather those turbines that will be located between Port Waikato and Limestone Downs.

My submission aims to prove that turbines located in that particular area are in direct opposition to several aspects of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the environment's report "Wind power, People and Place" 2006

### **Environmental impact of the Port Waikato Wind Farm**

Wind farms have impact on the environment in many ways, these include:

- Landscape and amenity effects
- Noise
- Ecological effects (including bird deaths)
- Archaeological and historical effects
- Effects on water
- Telecommunication, aviation, and traffic
- Tourism and recreational effects
- Intrinsic values
- Public safety
- Other land uses

It would be desirable to explore some of the terms listed above, the following are the descriptions that are accepted in various Acts and policy documents that are used to manage New Zealand's environment.

**Landscape**

Landscape describes both a physical area and the relationship and interaction between people and the environment within the area. "Landscape values" means more than just the visual aesthetic and the natural environment, but also includes a sense of place.

**Amenity values**

"Amenity values" are defined as those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural attributes.

**Natural character**

"Natural character" is a combination of natural elements, processes, and patterns. Natural character is deemed to exist on a spectrum from pristine, indigenous nature through to an urban environment. "Natural" has been interpreted to mean a product of Nature, and can include pasture, exotic trees species, and wildlife, as opposed to human made structures.

**Rural character**

Rural landscapes are by their nature strongly influenced by the type of rural activity and the intensity of associated settlement. The patterns of human activity are generally large scale, reflected in generally low density settlement, few structures and often a sense of spaciousness, both a beautiful landscape and a place of production.

**Local community**

People and communities are part of the environment, not apart from it. A community may be geographically based such as a city or town, or a network of relationships based around a common identity or interest.

**Valued landscapes in New Zealand**

New Zealand's unique natural and cultural history has created a great diversity of landscapes. These include native bush, wild coastal areas, farmland and horticultural areas, mountainous areas, and urban and semi urban landscapes. Different landscapes hold different values for different people and can therefore be valued for:

- Scenic or aesthetic qualities
- Recreational attributes
- Sense of place or identity
- Historical associations and attributes
- Cultural associations
- Intrinsic values
- Scientific and geomorphological qualities
- Ecological integrity

Most New Zealanders value highly the landscapes with the following characteristics:

- Evidence of physical landform and relief
- Lack of clutter or structures and/or obvious human influence
- Presence of water (lakes, rivers, sea)
- Presence of vegetation especially native and other ecological patterns

Landscapes with these combined characteristics are often judged as outstanding.

The coastal area immediately to the South of Port Waikato down to Limestone Downs has all of the above mentioned characteristics and so could conceivably be described as outstanding. Steep contours, huge limestone bluffs, native bush, rolling pastures streams and the sea, make this a very spectacular and unique piece of New Zealand landscape. It is easy to see why Peter Jackson chose features of this landscape for inclusion in his Lord of the Rings trilogy.

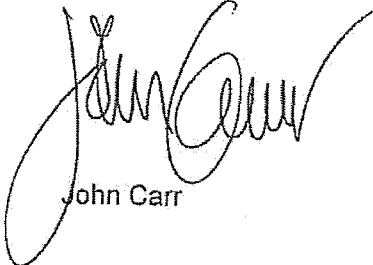
#### **Key findings with regard to the adverse effects of wind farms**

- The trend toward larger wind farms both in terms of size and number of turbines.
- Evidence of growing local community opposition to recent proposals.
- No apparent leadership from central and local government to ensure positive outcomes for wind power, landscapes and communities.
- Large scale wind farms directly effect the visual amenity of landscapes highly valued for scenic, natural, cultural or recreational attributes.

#### **Conclusion**

I would respectfully suggest that there should be no turbines located in the area between Port Waikato and Limestone Downs as this area constitutes a irreplaceable natural scenic and historical landscape.

Yours faithfully



John Carr