

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of a Board of Inquiry appointed under s146 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider an application by Mighty River Power Limited for resource consents to construct, operate, and maintain a wind farm at Turitea

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF RICHARD MIKKELSEN

Introduction.

1. My name is Richard Mikkelsen and I live at 126 Pacific Drive, Palmerston North with my wife Michelle and two sons.
2. We have been resident at our home at this address for 8 ½ years.
3. We selected our building site for its unobstructed views of the Tararua Ranges and the Turitea Valley below and designed our home accordingly with living and outdoor entertainment areas orientated to the west.
4. I own and operate Party Up, a hire company located in Rangitikei Street in Palmerston North.
5. I am a financial member of Tararua Aokautere Guardians Inc.
6. The purpose of my evidence is to provide a personal perspective as a potentially adversely affected party.

Photomontage – 126 Pacific Drive RVP2.

7. As a result of a request by the Tararua Aokautere Guardians, I allowed Mighty River Power to access my address to take photographs from my property for the production of photomontages.
8. These photographs were taken on 23 January 2009. Refer Wyatt evidence fig41, pg 68.
9. It wasn't until I viewed the resulting photomontages on 9 March 2009 that I was made aware of the magnitude of the proposed Turitea Wind Farm.
10. Admittedly, up to this point I had heard plenty of discussion regarding the proposal but had not personally pursued further information on the issue.
11. I did not submit a personal submission on Mighty River Power's Application for Resource Consent.
12. The submission closing date was 23 February 2009. I viewed the photomontages on 9 March 2009. Had I seen the images earlier I would most definitely have made a submission.
13. Upon viewing the photomontage my initial reaction was of utter shock.
14. I found it difficult to believe the physical and visual impact of this proposed development even when I had the photomontages in front of me.
15. It should be noted that I received two separate but overlapping photomontages taken from my property. When viewed, these two photomontages give a panoramic aspect of the entire view from my home.
16. Only one of these images appears in Mr Wyatt's evidence. I therefore believe the true view-shed from my property is significantly underrepresented. See fig 41, pg 68.

My Concerns.

17. I am unsure of the potential adverse impacts the Turitea Wind Farm could have on my home and family.
18. My property is 3km North West from the closest turbine (WT88).
19. I am concerned about noise and how it could adversely affect the health of my family and the enjoyment of my living spaces, both indoors and outdoors.
20. The prominence of the wind farm in my view-shed is also of great concern considering we chose this site for its wide and expansive views.
21. I do not believe the mitigation measures suggested by Mr Wyatt are practical or desirable. See fig 42, pg 69.
22. Refer Wyatt evidence

11.29 "As seen in Figure 41 the proposed wind turbines will be visible from this location and given their distance and number will be a major element in the view.

11.30 They have the potential to dominate the landscape at this distance and given the clear views, with no intervening screening the visual impact at this property will be significant. However, as I also consider this effect can be mitigated using landscaping (dependent on the landowner's preference), in my opinion the overall visual effect from this viewpoint is a more than minor adverse effect".

23. I am concerned about the visual affects created by spinning turbines i.e. flicker and strobe affects.
24. Should this proposed development go ahead and cause significant adverse affects for me or my family, I would consider relocating even though my property value would then be of additional concern.

21 May 2009