

**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 LEIGH MYRA DOME**

## **Introduction.**

1. My name is Leigh Myra Dome and I live at 516 Turitea Road, Turitea Valley, Palmerston North.
2. I am a Freelance Photographer and Journalist.
3. I am Vice President of Tararua Aokautere Guardians Inc.
4. I am a financial member of the Friends of Turitea Reserve.
5. The purpose of my evidence is to provide a personal perspective as a potentially adversely affected party.
6. My husband Gary Dome and I purchased our 12 acre lifestyle property in January 1995 and finished building our 336sq metre home, affectionately named "Dome on the Range" in March 1997 (Figure 1).
7. Our land is predominately covered by a 15 year old pine plantation with approximately 2 acres of native bush and an extensive landscaped garden surrounding our home.
8. Our property occupies a sloping site with sweeping, elevated views extending from Mount Taranaki in the west to Wharite in the east and everything in between including Palmerston North city and the landscape beyond.
9. The position of our property at 516 Turitea Road puts us at the epicentre of the proposed Turitea Wind Farm and therefore deems us (involuntarily) as a significantly affected party.
10. No less than 14 turbines are proposed within 2kms of our notional boundary (#s 32, 33, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88), the closest three turbines are within a mere 1200 metres from our home.
11. My home is within the 40-35dB limit as modelled by Mr Hegley's evidence refer fig 43.
12. It should be noted three of the nine turbines removed by MRP in their revised application were planned within 800 metres from my home.
13. I can presently identify eight turbines located at existing wind farms from within our boundary.

### **Potential Effects on my Personal Amenity and Health.**

14. The close proximity of several turbines indicated in this proposal to my home affects me personally on many levels but my primary concerns pertain to noise and visual amenity.
15. I am not a sound sleeper and am highly sensitive to background noise. No-one can yet assure me I will not be exposed to unacceptable turbine noise or acoustic vibration.
16. As a sufferer of migraines, I am also sensitive to extreme light effects and am concerned the turbines planned directly to the east of my home on Bryant Hill will cause a 'strobe effect' as the sun rises behind them.
17. Apart from the substantial financial investment we have made in our home and property, there are emotional attachments that cannot be measured. Over the 14 years we have resided at Dome on the Range, we have developed our substantial gardens and living spaces to enhance our enjoyment of our rural environment and astounding views (Figure 2).
18. We regularly entertain our friends and families in our outdoor living areas, sharing our unique and valuable surroundings. No amount of 'mitigation' i.e. screening foliage or 'hush glass', will retain the views and peaceful tranquillity that we already cherish. Those very reasons for why we chose to build our lives here in the first instance.
19. As a self employed photographer and journalist, I work from home. My office window faces Bryant Hill where the majority of the very closest turbines to my home could be located.
20. My job requires a significant degree of concentration and creativity, I feel my ability to do both would be compromised by the expected noise and visual 'side effects' of several turbines within 1100 metres from my work station.

### **The Big Picture.**

21. I have attended school, played, worked and lived in my home town of Palmerston North for all of my 48 years. For all that time the Tararua Ranges have provided an important symbol of 'home' to me.
22. Until this point I have tolerated the existing wind farms as they still allowed a significant view-shed of my beloved Ranges from throughout the city.
23. Now I discover that last remaining 14 km wide vestige of the Tararua Range presently unsullied by wind turbines is threatened by large scale

industrialisation - namely the proposed Turitea Wind Farm. I am outraged.

24. People in our local community are already endeavouring to live with the adverse effects of existing wind farms. Many residents I have spoken to have first hand experience of the consequences of unsatisfactory placement of turbines on our Ranges. They speak of noise intrusion and sleep disturbance.
25. It appears to me the close proximity of turbines to dwellings is the leading reason for my concerns. How close is too close?
26. When turbines are operational the visible landscape is never still.
27. Daily I witness the constantly changing visual effect of the sun as it moves across the sky, on the existing turbines. One only needs to see the highlighted white blades and towers against a late afternoon sky to appreciate my concerns regarding the visual impact of such a large scale development on my city's backdrop.

21 May 2009.

**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**

