

LAST WEEK TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

On 23 February, submissions close on the application of Mighty River Power (MRP) to build a windfarm on the last remaining length of the Tararua ranges visible from the Manawatu. This decision is probably the most important planning issue that Palmerston North will face this decade.

Things you need to know

- Large tracts of the Turitea Reserve destroyed
- No view of the skyline from the city free of turbines
- 200 turbines now - nearly 500 after this windfarm
- City's water quality endangered by sedimentation

BUT WINDFARMS ARE GOOD AREN'T THEY?

Windfarms produce cheap power don't they?

Well, no. An Irish electrical industry study estimates that wind power is 25% more expensive than gas turbines for example. Some economists claim it's a lot closer to twice the price.

But isn't wind power green?

Our present windfarms in the Manawatu produced less than one percent of their capacity during peak load periods over the past three winters (Source: Transpower). That means other power stations must be built to back up windfarms - and that's not very green!

Why is everyone rushing to build windfarms then?

Carbon credits are very profitable for the power companies. Carbon credits are a doubtful financial instrument much like the wheeling and dealing that has our economy in turmoil right now.

So will they reduce my power bill?

Very unlikely. Your power bill has probably risen 40% in the last 5 years, yet 55% of our power is made from water (which has not risen in price!) Our power bills seem to be tied to the cost of oil, which has little relevance to New Zealand's electricity generation capacity. Any profit is much more likely to go into higher executive remuneration or exorbitant directors' fees.

But they will give us power forever!

Not the present ones! They are unlikely to last much more than 20 years. At that stage, they may be replaced with newer turbines, or they may be left to decay and rust because some other means of generation such as wave or tide is more predictable.

But if that happens surely the power company would have to make good the landscape just like the forestry industry does?

Sorry! This application mentions nothing about putting the environment back the way they found it. The rusting and rotting remains could be there for your children and your children's children to wonder what beautiful natural ranges might look like.

But we're going to get an ecopark, aren't we?

What's wrong with the one we've got - a reserve of undisturbed bush with rare native birds surrounding our city's safe water supply? The City Council has already made a commitment to MRP to allow the use of the reserve. Only we can stop this disaster in the making.

Won't there be lots of new jobs?

There will be up to 250 new jobs, but these are jobs for a few months rather than years, and many will go to overseas specialists.

But the local economy will benefit by \$150 million during construction and \$1.9 million a year once operating!

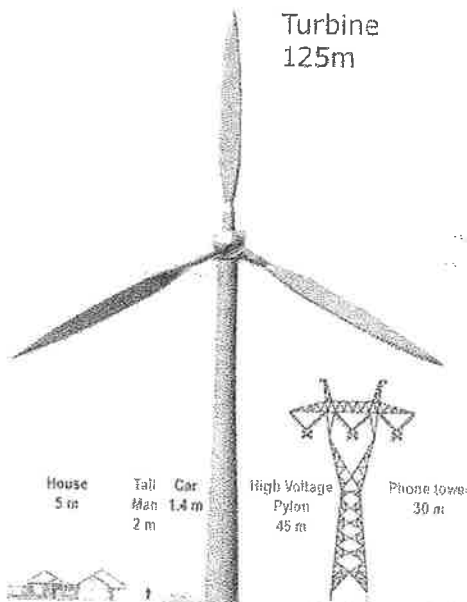
Most of the ongoing income will go to a handful of landowners while property values for others will take a dive. The short-term injection of funds must be weighed against the loss of community amenity and the negative impact on the city's image.

WHAT ABOUT OUR WATER SUPPLY?

Installing 68 turbines in the reserve will involve the destruction of 57 hectares of established native bush, and the excavation of 68,000 truckloads of soil - enough trucks to fill the road - nose to tail between Auckland and Wellington. How can this disturbance not threaten our water supply?



Inserted by the ENUFF campaign, Palmerston North



Relative size of the Turitea turbines

HOW TO SUBMIT

Phone the Ministry for the Environment 0800 836 444 and ask for a submission form and reply-paid envelope to be delivered to you.

Or, Download a submission form from www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/call-in-turitea and follow the instructions to email back.

12/01/05/13/09

Appendix 5

Submitter 644 and 317 City View Photo



Appendix 6

Submitter 644 and 317 View towards the proposed Wind Farm



Appendix 7

Submitters 674 and 682 View Looking Over the city



Appendix 8

Submitters 674 and 682 View towards the proposed wind farm.



Appendix 9

Typical Construction / Orientation of dwellings on the elevated slopes of the lower Tararuas.



Appendix 10

Photo of the Te Rere Haus Windflow 500 Turbines seen from my front porch.

