

TURITEA WIND FARM - CAUCUS STATEMENT

Date: 12th June 2009

Caucus attendees

Clive Anstey for Palmerston North City Council (Anstey) Di Lucas for Tararua Aokautere Guardians & Friends of
 Turitea Reserve (Lucas)
 Shannon Bray for Tararua Aokautere Guardians & Friends of
 Turitea Reserve (Bray) Allan Wyatt for MRP (Wyatt)

Topic	Clarification	Comments	Agree	Disagree
Landscape classification	ONL		Anstey, Bray and Lucas agree that the skyline, which includes a series of ridges, would be described as an outstanding natural feature. All agree that the naturalness diminishes northwards. All agree that there are areas within both Hardings Park and Turitea Reserve that have outstanding qualities. Anstey & Bray, whilst accepting that large parts of the Reserve would qualify, there are transitional areas towards the north which have been significantly modified and the pattern of use is pastoral and productive forestry. All agree that the area of the foothills outside of the Turitea Reserve is a high amenity landscape.	Wyatt would agree that this is a distinctive feature, but would not rate it as outstanding when compared to the skyline to the north and south. Lucas would rate the Turitea Reserve as part of an ONL. Wyatt doesn't agree that this area should be included within an ONL. Wyatt would rate the area within the Turitea Reserve as part of this high amenity landscape.
	High Amenity Landscape			
Methodology	Turbine Grouping		Anstey, Bray and Lucas believes is a useful and effective tool for broad analysis and hence have shared the group descriptions to assist the court. Anstey, Bray and Lucas recognise that the use of this tool has some limitations.	Wyatt disagrees and doesn't believe these are helpful.
	Community of Interest		All of us agree that we haven't used a "Community of Interest" analysis.	
	Photomontage	The Caucus agreed that the Wyatt explanation of the use of a 90mm lens was helpful	We all agree that photomontages should reflect the horizontal and vertical scale of distant objects in the landscape. The photographs seem accurate in scale and the montages are useful.	Bray has some concern re technical accuracy of the simulation.
	Landscape Units		We agree that the landscape units in the Wyatt and Bray reports are useful to underpin their own analysis.	
	Viewpoint selection		We all accept that there is a practical limitation on the amount of viewpoints that can be chosen and assessed and particularly those that are then simulated in photomontages. They are a useful tool. We all agree that there was a fair representation of viewpoints.	
	Perception studies / focus groups		Perception studies are useful and Anstey, Bray and Lucas believe that these are only of limited use for visual amenity assessments.	Wyatt believes that these show a difference between wind farms and other forms of development in the landscape.
	Distance and turbine height		Wyatt, Bray and Anstey find these helpful.	Lucas believe that such bands are unhelpful because of the variation in landscape context.
	The Reserve Act	Wyatt is unaware of case law which would limit development adjoining a Scenic Reserve.		
Assessment of effects	Road users	Anstey and Wyatt agree that the traffic numbers in the Anstey Evidence are likely to be correct.	Anstey, Bray and Lucas disagree with the level of impact assessed by Wyatt is his evidence and the AEE.	
	Public spaces		Anstey, Bray and Lucas disagree with the level of impact assessed by Wyatt is his evidence and the AEE.	
	Residential impacts	The Wyatt scale assesses "More than minor" as being able to be mitigated. "High" is a level of assessment that cannot be mitigated.		Anstey, Bray and Lucas disagree with the level of impact as "More than minor" in many of the residential assessments and believe that these should be "High" as many of these can't be acceptably mitigated.
	Tracking and earthworks		We all agree that roading other associated infrastructure are unlikely to have significant visual effects from vantage points beyond the Reserves.	
Cumulative effects			Anstey, Bray and Lucas believe that the cumulative effects are unacceptable, especially as the Turitea turbines fill the gap on the ranges directly south east of Palmerston North. Anstey, Bray and Lucas also believe that there are cumulative effects within Turitea Wind Farm because of the quantity and distribution of the turbines. Anstey, Bray and Lucas believe that the cumulative effect is exacerbated because of the contrast in style of turbines (height, blade number & blade proportion) between Turitea and the existing and consented wind farms. The Caucus agrees that the two bladed wind turbines should not be continued as these have additional adverse effects.	Wyatt believes that this is already a landscape which contains wind turbines and that the cumulative effects are acceptable. Wyatt does not believe that there are additional cumulative effects, simply because this proposal contains a number of wind turbines. Wyatt disagrees and believes that the increased height and wider spacing actually decreases the visual impact.
Mitigation and planting			The Caucus agrees that landscape mitigation is not appropriate for publicly viewpoints. Anstey, Bray and Lucas believe that planting is not an appropriate mitigation measure.	Wyatt disagrees and this method has been used in all cases in which he has been involved.
KZVI & Memory Map		The Caucus agreed that both were useful tools and would be useful for the Board of Enquiry.		

Signed

Clive Anstey

Shannon Bray

Di Lucas

Allan Wyatt