

BEFORE THE BOARD OF INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act

AND

IN THE MATTER of resource consent applications
by Mighty River Power Limited to
construct, operate and maintain a
wind farm at Turitea

OPENING STATEMENT FOR PHILLIP JOHN HINDRUP

A. INTRODUCTION

1. I will briefly summarise:

- The main points of my evidence concerning Regional Council consents and Statutory Documents,
- The outcomes of the June 2009 Planning Expert caucusing, including recent discussions I have had with the Applicant and its planner, and
- Other matters relevant to the proposal.

B. MAIN POINTS

2. The main points from my evidence are:

- i. A total of 7 resource consents are required from Horizons Regional Council (HRC) for the redesigned wind farm;
- ii. The activity status of those consents remains discretionary;
- iii. The relevant objectives, policies and rules requiring consideration are the same as those identified in the June 2009 Planning Expert caucusing.
- iv. I have reviewed the draft conditions provided by the applicant, and revised versions after expert caucusing, and have made comments and suggested changes regarding their enforceability and reasonableness only.

3. In my supplementary evidence I advised that a total of 8 resource consents were required but noted there was some uncertainty as to whether application 104554 to construct a double culvert was still required.

4. Following discussions with the applicant over the redesign I can confirm that the double culvert is no longer required because of changes in the road alignment. It follows that application 104554 is no longer required.

C. CAUCUSING AND DISCUSSIONS

5. Jeff Baker, Greg Pollock and I attended two caucusing meetings in June 2009 to identify issues of agreement and disagreement amongst the planners. The outcomes of those meetings are summarised in the Planning Experts report dated 17 June 2009.

6. With regard to Regional Council statutory planning documents, the three experts agreed on the following:

- i. A total of 8 resource consents are required from Horizons Regional Council (7 consents are now required as per my earlier comments);
- ii. The objectives, policies and rules in the regional planning documents relevant to the proposal;
- iii. Both the operative RPS and the Proposed One Plan identify the skyline of the Tararua Ranges as an outstanding natural landscape;
- iv. That interpretation of what is the 'skyline' is required to determine whether some or all of the site falls within that skyline and is therefore an outstanding natural landscape for the purposes of those documents.

7. I have had further discussions with Greg Pollock regarding the applicant's proposed conditions including the revised versions resulting from expert caucusing. Agreement has been reached on all conditions relating to Horizons Regional Council consents.

D. OTHER MATTERS

Proposed One Plan ("POP")

8. At the time of writing this statement, provisional determinations have been released for Chapters 3 and 7 of the POP concerning Renewable Energy and Landscape. These have no legal status but are intended to provide a statement of the General Hearing Panel's current thinking to enable other Hearing Panels, officers and submitters to understand the likely form of the provisions in Chapters 3 and 7 and Schedule F.
9. I can address you on the changes made to those chapters by those provisional determinations, or provide copies to the Board, if you think that would be helpful.

Monitoring Costs

10. I can confirm that HRC officers met with the applicant to discuss the monitoring cost estimate provided in Appendix B of my supplementary evidence. General agreement was reached on the extent of monitoring necessary to enforce the conditions in their present form and as to the cost estimate of undertaking this monitoring.



Phillip Hindrup
**SENIOR CONSENTS PLANNER
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

22 March 2010