

Representation before Board of Inquiry

My name is Brielle Rosa. My husband and I live at 354 Turitea Rd. The nearest proposed turbines (82 and 83) will be located approximately 1.5 km from our home. We are not participants in the wind farm project; there will be no turbines or power transmission lines on our property. Thus we are members of what could be considered the most adversely affected group of residents.

I am a veterinarian currently working towards my PhD at Massey University. My area of expertise is large animal medicine and developmental biology—I am not an expert in landscape architecture, noise monitoring, or any of the other fields so relevant to this Board of Inquiry. As such I will not comment on these issues other than to briefly reiterate the concerns I have raised in my submission, which are:

- The proposed Turitea wind farm is too close to people's homes
 - I am concerned that this will have a negative effect on our enjoyment of our property and on the value of our property should we ever wish to sell it
 - This property represents the vast majority of my husband and my total assets (really it is our only substantive material asset).
- The prospect of wind farm noise is very concerning to me, as a significant part of the amenity of our property is its quiet rural nature.
- Adverse effects on the Turitea stream DOWNSTREAM of the water catchment area would compromise our enjoyment of the stream, which forms part of the boundary of our property and is a site of recreation for myself and my family.
- The presence of turbines within the reserve are of concern for several reasons:
 - It will change the visual nature of the reserve, which I currently enjoy very much when walking, biking and horse riding on the track between Turitea and Greens Rd.
 - I personally disagree with building large industrial structures in natural areas.
 - I do not believe any turbines should be located within the water catchment area.
- There is no plan for decommissioning the wind farm, which seems to reflect a startling lack of foresight on the part of whoever should ensure there is such a plan. However, I understand that the Board has asked for a decommissioning plan. If this is correct then hopefully the issue of decommissioning will be resolved.

I am not against wind farms, however I feel that they need to be developed with due consideration to the people and natural areas that they will affect. My goal during this representation is to demonstrate to the Board of Inquiry how the proposed wind farm would impact on my day to day experience. I realize that I am a member of a minority group, the most adversely affected; however I hope that the Board will consider the opinions and concerns of myself and other members of this group as the impact of the wind farm will be greatest on our daily lives. Expert witnesses for MRP have cited

public opinion surveys which suggest that the majority of area residents are in favor of the Turitea wind farm. I believe that these "area" residents are not members of the most-affected group. I too would find it easier to be in favor of the project if it did not affect me directly. It is my hope that the Board of Inquiry will at least consider the interests of those of us who will live, quite literally, in the shadow of the wind turbines.

To demonstrate the effect of the proposed wind turbines on my daily life I would like to take you through a photographic tour of the areas where I spend my time.

Show powerpoint

Last slide: Finally, I would like to respond to the evidence submitted by several of our neighbours who farm locally and will have turbines on their property. They mention the proliferation of lifestyle blocks in the area, and suggest that this has been both detrimental to the environment and to their personal "viewshed". Their statements are well-put, however I feel they require a response.

In terms of environmental effects, the proliferation of lifestyle blocks has led to an increase in plantings which provide habitats for native birds and wildlife. During the 1990s our own property was a bare paddock without a tree on it.

I am sorry if the effect of the additional buildings has detracted from our neighbours enjoyment of their own property. I realize that in New Zealand the term lifestyle can be used in a derogatory manner. However, I would like to point out that owning our "small holdings" is the best we can do. My husband and I love the land and living in a rural, beautiful environment. I would love to own an entire hillside, but that is not within our capabilities. So we enjoy the 4 acres we do own. Owning less land does not mean we love the land any less.

Lastly, I feel there is a big difference between subdivision development and wind farm development. The growth of subdivisions in the area in no way reduces the value of neighbouring farmland. If anything, it increases it. And our homes do not make noise that disturbs sleep or has potential adverse affects on the health of our neighbours.

I am aware that Mighty River Power is redoing their wind farm plan. It is difficult to know what that new plan will entail. I have thus been forced to base this representation on the old plan for the wind farm, and I recognize that some changes may make the newer version more acceptable to me. One change that I consider of critical importance is increasing the distance between turbines and homes. I believe everyone agrees that modeling noise effects in complex topography is difficult to do accurately. The effect the noise of the turbines may have on individuals in their homes is hard to predict, however it is certain that once a turbine is build it is not going to be easily removed just because it is causing a local resident distress. Also, it is important to consider the potential for adverse health effects that may be caused by difficult to measure low frequency noise. Lack of proof that something is harmful is NOT evidence that it safe. It seems prudent to err on the side of caution. In my opinion the main reason for situating turbines so close to

houses is profitability—it is less expensive to bring the electricity to the national grid if the turbines are in close proximity to existing infrastructure. Considering that Mighty River Power states on their website that they posted record profits last year I find it hard to sympathize with their need for even more profitability. I am not interested in being part of an experimental population that eventually shows adverse health effects of being too close to turbines, and I hope that Mighty River Power will consider investing some of those profits into creating a more considerate wind farm proposal. Additionally, I hope to see my concerns regarding the water catchment area, the stream downstream of the catchment area, and the nature and character of the skyline and reserve addressed.

I thank the Board for allowing me to speak to you, and hope that I will have the opportunity to respond to the new proposed wind farm design when it becomes available.