

Ko Takitimu te waka  
Ko Okana te awa  
Ko Te Upoko o Tahu Mata te mauka  
Ko Kai tahu te iwi  
Ko Wairewa te marae  
Ko Mako te wharenuī  
Ko Tukuwaha te tipuna wahine  
Ko Leonie Galt raua ko Maitland Nicol oku matua  
Ko Marianne Tremaine ahau  
No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

My name is Marianne Tremaine and I live with my partner Allanah Ryan at 431 Turitea Road. We are both senior lecturers at Massey University. Allanah has a doctorate in Sociology and my doctorate is in Management. Our suburban lives were changed in the year 2000 when we went to visit friends and have a look at a small subdivision of a few sites next to their place. We stood on the land where our house is now and something magical happened. We looked across to the stream and the farmland and the hills rising behind and the big, broad sky and knew that this was the place where we wanted to live.

We had our dream site, so we designed our dream home with as many green features as we could incorporate. We planned the landscaping to fit the site and the house and experienced the strange feeling of finding that we seemed to grow into the Turitea valley and into the house – we kept finding more to like and enjoy. We had always loved turning into Turitea Road and seeing the hills and the patterns of light and shade playing across them. The journey home looking at the bush and at the stream as you cross the one-way bridges has always felt special. The sunsets are magnificent. The night sky is beautiful. The stars seem clear and close as you stare up at them and the peace feels complete. Sometimes there is a morepork calling and yet again you feel thankful for the chance event that led you to this place, which is home.

We have lived in our home for five years. At first when we heard of the possibility of a wind farm development it seemed incredible. After all a reserve is a reserve. We had come to the Turitea knowing about the reserve, about the green corridor planting around the Turitea stream and the special character of the valley. The value of plant life and bird life and the bush seemed too much to put at risk.

Although wind energy is fascinating technology, shifting huge amounts of earth, putting massive quantities of concrete into the ground and replacing that deep stillness at night with noise is too great a price to pay, as in this instance the technology is in the wrong place, far too close to where people live.

Noise is my greatest concern. I wake up each night at least three or four times and I rely on being able to get back to sleep again in order to be able to function competently the next day. I do not think that a particular measure of decibels is a sensible way to measure whether noise will have a deleterious effect on a community, as the same measure of decibels will affect different people differently. In my case, the noise could certainly affect whether I am able to carry out my teaching and research and other duties as an academic. Ten of the turbines are close to our house at distances of between 1.3 and 1.8 kilometres according to measurements given to me by a representative of Mighty River Power. For example turbine 83 is 1.4 kilometres away, 85 is 1.5 kilometres, 78 is 1.8 kilometres and 86 is 1.3 kilometres.

The environment in the Turitea valley is particularly precious to those of us who have chosen to live there because of the bush and the birds and the beauty. I cannot see how it could be protected with development on the scale required by the wind farm. I do not doubt that Mighty River Power would do their best to protect it, but protecting the amenity of the environment is not compatible with this development.

I am concerned about the possibility of losing the beauty of the play of light and shade on the hills as a consequence of having turbines dominating the landscape. It is good for our souls to see natural beauty and be moved by it. I also feel uncomfortable about having a community where we know our neighbours and enjoy a sense of belonging in the valley with them, degenerating into factions of those who are 'for' and those who are 'against' the wind farm.

Perhaps the greatest concern is that no one is able to give reassurance that any of these elements of life in our house in our valley can be protected in the face of a development on this scale.

We seek the following decision from the Board of Inquiry:

That the application cannot comply with the ethic of sustainable management as contained in the Resource Management Act without imposing conditions on the development.

The minimum conditions we would seek to have imposed would require that there should be:

- No turbines in the Turitea Reserve
- No turbine within three kilometres of a dwelling
- Funds set aside in trust in a way that ensures that the land can be fully returned to its former state when the project is decommissioned (organisations and the people within them can change, as can the external environment and promises made now may not be honoured in future without a mechanism that fully protects funds for the purpose).

I thank the Board members for the work they are doing on behalf of the community and for the opportunity to be heard by them today.