

Malcolm J. Frith Oral Submission #295

When I was growing up I was involved in Cubs and Scouts. We were taught to respect the environment, and to leave it as a better place than when we found it.

I have never pictured myself as a radical "Greenie", but when I see what is happening to our environment, and when a short-term gain is more important, I am being forced to rethink my position - that is why I am here today.

I believe our World and our survival hangs on the edge of a cliff. It is ironical to think that Wind Turbines are promoted as carbon neutral, when to propose installing in a Water/Nature Reserve will cause so much damage and release Carbon back into the air. I am not against Turbine Technology but it must be used in an appropriate manner and place. I believe this proposal sighted on our hills and Reserve is not appropriate, as we already have large scale Turbine sites, and bear our share for the Region.

The first Turbines were a novelty, and a future clean Power source. Now the Turbines are becoming bigger, and their numbers vast beyond, and are becoming like an invading army banging on our back door and an oppressor!

When I was first asked what I thought about the Wind Turbine project in the Tiritea area, my response was "Great!" - this will help reduce the debt the City faces, through having an income source, but with no concept of the scale or location of the project. How quickly my mind changed, when I found out more about it.

I have only been able to attend one hearing session, but I have followed the report each night in the "Manawatu Standard". Some questions come to mind from those reports:-

1. The current land use "Rural & Reserve" will change to "Industrial" - how is this?
2. What happened to the protection offered to this land under the District Plan and Regional Management Act?
3. The P.N.C.C. Mayors' lack of knowledge on the scale of this project.
4. Why did Mighty River Power, a Government owned company, pay a private Company's debt? Perhaps they could pay my debts?
5. Lack of definition between construction noise and ongoing noise from the Turbines when they are operating.
6. That no level was set on the amounts that could be spent on legal costs. P.N.C.C. has now dropped out of this race in part, due to budget restraints.
7. How can an industrial wind project be imposed onto rural and urban residential land owners and the environment? (You can't hide a 125m turbine, no matter how you wrap it up).
8. Who will remove the Turbines when they are outdated by new technology, and who will pay?
9. Are not trees the best carbon neutral absorbing creation on the planet?
10. Mitigation seems to be a way to gain a favourable decision for the project - surely it should be about the merit of the project in its fullness.

I also ask myself what is purpose of a Reserve, and what does it mean to me?

1. A Reserve is an area of land set aside for a specific purpose and to be protected for that purpose at all costs.
2. It can be an area of historical and social importance.
3. An area for the enjoyment and benefit for all people, no matter who they are.
4. An area set aside for environmental reasons, sustainability and protection.
5. An area set aside for the health of its stewards - people who live around it giving physical, mental and spiritual health.
6. A place where you can relax and get away from the noise of life, and just "chill out!"

The Industrial project in my opinion, should not go ahead. Any benefit is far outweighed by the disadvantages and negative effects to the City and its people for the following reasons:-

1. Loss of income for the City's accommodation industry: motels hostels etc. especially associated with IPC and Massey.
2. Loss of recreational activity values to surrounding parks reserves, and river walkways. Loss of personal enjoyment for users, with social impact
3. Loss of environment, flora and fauna, ecosystems, loss of water quality, native fish life. DOC reports that the health of native fish is not good.
4. Loss of personal health and wellbeing due to stress during construction; stress due to financial concerns; stress due to never ceasing noise pollution. All this will affect a wide group of the Community, not just local landowners. Stress due to a recreation space being lost. Background noise can be seen as a mental form of torture, ie. the boom, boom of a bass instrument.
5. Ongoing impact on the City's rates.
 - a: Increase cost to maintain the City's water quality: more cleaning to remove sediment build-up in the Dam, pipes and filters. The City is currently spending thousands of dollars to carry out this work. I can't understand why they would allow a project to go ahead, which will increase the problem.
 - b: Loss of income from the lower rate intake from affected property as their value drops, and loss from future proposed property development in the Aokautere area.
 - c: Loss of depreciation value set against the Reserves affected by the development.
 - d: Loss of income from lower student numbers.
6. Loss of a sustainable image the City is trying to create, which could turn people away from living here.
7. Loss of income from the farming industry and associated industries as farmers move away from farming livestock. Surely food production is more important than energy.

The great thing about all this is that Wind Turbine technology is not totally carbon neutral, the answer is no.

We are already seeing the development of new technology:

- a. Houses that generate and return power to the grid.
- b. Other forms of motion generation ie: floors.

- c. Better solar generation.
- d. Gas capture.
- e. Fusion cells.

We are a Country that needs to be more visionary and inventive and not sacrifice our future for a quick dollar. Who will pay for and remove the turbines when they are superceded?

Let not the sickness of the "love of money" kill our future. There are only a few that win in the end and get big money, and it certainly is not the Ratepayer, Tax payer or Consumer of Electricity.

If our previous Council had been "immunised" against this "disease", we most probably would not be here today.

If we want to reduce our effect on this Country as far as Carbon goes, we should be undertaking a massive tree planting of natives over the next 10 to 20 years.