

579

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Supplementary spiel to submission 579

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RD 4



If a picture speaks a thousand words then Edward Munch says it all in his famous painting called "The Scream"

This depicts a good number of the unfortunates who will have turbine noise inflicted upon them.

I feel like that small Chinese person standing in Tianamen Square facing the juggernaut (MRP) - not your good selves I hasten to add.

I have read all the submissions a while ago, sat through much learned discussion, but at the end of the day I am not satisfied in any way that there will be no sound disturbance -

most especially at night.

The night time readings (10 pm - 7 am) taken at our property by Mr. Hegley over a two week period show most definitely that on 8 nights the dBA readings were all below 30 and on 7 nights almost to the 20 dBA. (see attachment). It is QUIET. That is one of the reasons we live here. It is totally out of order to have background sound levels and then bung on a design level a great deal higher. If they want to erect industrial machinery in a quiet rural environment then they should respect our night time levels without adding to them.

I am, unfortunately for me, a very light sleeper and have exceptionally good hearing. Perhaps its because I come from a very musical family. I am also greatly disturbed by the very low frequency booming from car stereos - you don't hear the "music" but just the insufferable thump thump thump. In short I am very concerned about the noise effectS of the turbines. That said, I am intelligent and have integrity so that I shall not be complaining about noise if it so happens there is none to complain about. ! Contrary to what some expert tried to imply about us.

We have had experience of the rumble droning noise which became intolerable a while ago. At first we thought the water pump was going but it wasn't raining. We would go outside and listen but could hear nothing. We came inside and it was there. It got gradually louder over some months. It was becoming a real problem because once you had 'heard' it you couldn't tune it out. It would also wake you at times. It was only within the house. We tried everything possible to isolate it but could not. I had a theory it was when the Te Rere Hau turbine gearboxes were self destructing. In the end someone suggested contacting Transpower as it might have been the Harts Road Substation. They were extremely helpful and went out of their way to try and locate the source. It did sound similar to the hum of a transformer. Eventually it mysteriously stopped. So when I say I am concerned about future noise from this wind farm it is because we already know what it is like to have sleep deprivation and disturbance with the accompanying anxiety and stress from such a noise.

I thought it was very revealing that the MRP noise experts did not seem to want to believe the evidence of Dr. Thorne who spoke about the various types of noise and their impacts on health and well being. It exists. I know for a fact.

Should there be a problem with excessive or intolerable noise causing distress and/or sleep disturbance, of whatever variety, then WHO exactly will be responsible for fielding the complaint calls?

Who will ensure that ALL calls are dealt with promptly and satisfactorily ? Just logging a complaint and doing nothing about it is not an option.

WHO picks up the financial tab for that work?

Who would be the totally INDEPENDENT body working to safeguard the residents who do have problems?

Mighty River Power would have to sort the problems out but there needs to be some compulsory regulatory body overseeing this

I rather fear that once the turbines go up then we shall all be hung out to dry.

I do not see that it is fair to expect the ratepayers to fund PNCC for any of this. This whole application and especially the call-in has already cost the city dearly.

It is crucial that safeguards are set down with no room for manoeuvre or evading of responsibilities.

I believe, having listened to so much expert evidence, and read a lot of the submissions, as well as accounts from windfarms overseas, that, with the sheer size and numbers of turbines the set back distance should be at least 4 ks. Even that is too close for comfort.

To lessen the likely effects of noise on residents I therefore respectfully request that the following turbines be declined:

Mr. Anstey had some useful names for collections of turbines and I refer to them here as well as by number:

The ones that are likely to cause noise (and visual) disturbance to us as we are on the 2k boundary are:

“Love Property”

***Nos. 54, 55, (56 on Game ridge),
127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135.***

These are in a row up behind us and for 39% of the year (over 4 months!) (refer MRP wind rose) when the wind is coming from that direction we shall be severely affected as the sound will roll down the hills towards us, especially on cool nights with the temperature inversion. These will also be extremely predominant visually and I would request them gone for that reason also.

“Browns Flat West”

***Nos. 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 52.
and 111, 112, 113, 114, 119***

These are also very close to us and would be very intrusive visually on our landscape in Kahuterawa Valley. They would also stand out and be very obvious coming along the highway from the Tokomaru direction.

Of course those are the ones near to us down the “Private Drive” off to the left (10 properties) before coming to Greens Road. To accord the rest of the foothills community the same respite therefore the following should also be declined:

“Bryant Hill West”

***Nos. 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88.
and***

“Bryant Hill East”

Nos. 72, 73, 89, 90, 91, 92.

These are very close indeed to residents in the Turitea Valley as well as Pahiatua Track. They would also be a really AWFUL sight on Bryant's Hill.

Also the turbines of concern to those fit and able to tramp up to the viewpoints in Hardings Park should be deleted. The last thing one needs on a walk in the wilderness to recharge one's batteries is the sight and sound of wind turbines. Anathema. This is a recreational part after all and should be free of any industrial intrusions.

***These are "Red Rock Knub"
Nos 115, 116, 117, 118***

I am not familiar with the rest of the wind farm area further over and the other side of the Reserve and hope others will deal with any nuisance turbines there.

Speaking of Bryant's Hill, or more particularly an assertion by Mr. Waters that people have known about wind turbines for years I have to contradict him. I have lived in Palmerston North since 1970, the last 32 of them on our property in Kahuterawa. At no time was I made aware that there was a proposal to put a wind farm up in the hills behind us. He might have known a lot as he was, as was Mrs. Kathy Love, on the committee of the Fitzherbert Ward of the Palmerston North City Council. Who knows what they were plotting? I certainly never heard a whisper of such.

I worked for many years at Massey in the Department of Agricultural Engineering alongside Dr. Robyn Phipps and Ralph Sims. All kinds of renewable energy concepts were looked into including wind turbines but at no stage was I ever made aware, again, that a wind farm was to be built up in the area in question.

This flies in the face of a certain assertion that the residents buying their sections and building their homes would have known, when they came, that there was to be a wind farm. Isn't that what LIM reports are all about? They would not have known. Te Apiti appeared, then gradually more came but at no stage were we made aware of this one. I guess nobody would ever have imagined that such a travesty would be contemplated.

The first our family knew about it was when Mike Omer rang and made an appointment to come and talk to us about it. Back then I thought it was a great idea. I soon realised there were going to be serious consequences for us and changed my opinion entirely.

This is where I disagree with the Kalafatelis work. Of course if you ask people what they think of turbines, and they have had not real experience of them and the issues involved but only that they are way in the distance and saving the planet, they are bound to say they approve. I would have done the same. So I don't think his "approval" rating counts for much at all. I would disregard it totally. I was one of those phoned.

I am not too impressed by some Johnny come lately behind us deliberately purchasing his land for the express purpose of having a wind farm and treating his neighbours with such callous disregard.

We had deliberately chosen to live in a quiet rural environment, and although it is inevitable that there will be gradual rural residential development, for the most part these folk moving in have similar aspirations and "blend" in very well. I applaud Shannon Bray for saying he has not yet seen a 125m high house!!!

I have sat through much discussion of the description of the hills in question. I think any description is irrelevant. The essence is: IT IS OUR BACKDROP TO THE CITY and as

such should be left unadulterated, and pristine as far as is possible.

The carcinogenic march of turbines has got to STOP.

Just because the site is apparently a wonderful wind resource doesn't mean it has to actually be utilised. Its value is in its amenity for the city (not just local residents) and the serenity, unspoilt landforms, recreation, and forest parks to be enjoyed now and for future generations. It is OUR precious backdrop and its all we've got. It is the city's legacy. Industrial turbines have absolutely no place there.

I do find it extremely galling that these people from Mighty River Power, and there seems to be an enormous retinue, all live a long way from Palmerston North and none of them will have to personally cope with what they wish to inflict on our city.

There was massive opposition when the idea was originally put to the city about using the Reserve for a wind farm. For reasons best known to themselves the previous PNCC totally ignored it all and rushed headlong into this unholy alliance with MRP. I have never quite understood how and why this could be when it was so blatantly obvious that it was abhorrent to so many. There are, of course, many ironies in all of this. Perhaps one day all will be revealed.

Some cognisance could be extended to those who live here and who do not regard wind turbines with the same degree of reverence or revenue garnering as others. By all means farmers should diversify, grow cannabis if they want, but whatever they do should not be a nuisance to their neighbours. I think one calls it common decency. It is in short supply in these parts of late.

Imagine, if you will, spending 32 years on your much loved 23 acre block, bringing up two boys, enjoying the privacy, the peace and quiet, the land, the views, seeing trees grow and patches of bush flourish, livestock and pets come and go, great neighbours and a wonderful rural community. You grow trees for firewood, you have a wood range to heat the water and cook in and on, you recycle, compost and grow a lot of your own fruit and vegetables and do your very best to tread lightly on the planet. You then retire and think you will have time to enjoy it all only to find that it is likely to turn terribly pearshaped because some new neighbour is wanting to impose giant turbines close by to make his fortune.

There is a very large discrepancy here. This landowner, so I have heard, apparently nets \$20,000 per turbine per year for guaranteed 20 or 25 years. Of course he and others in on the MRP Scheme will be laughing all the way to the bank. But hang on a minute. They don't give a rat's behind about the people around them who are going to be severely penalised by this. You would think that there would be compensation of some sort. After all their profit causes your loss. On a \$600,000 property, say, a loss of 25%, which some say would arise, would be \$150,000. That, to me, is theft. They talk of "mitigation" Joke. Mr Wyatt would plant trees. Fantastic.

The trouble is that the rural community are in a no win situation. Truthfully they cannot complain loudly about their situation if it is, to them, intolerable and they want to leave. Why? Because they would not get a reasonable price for their property. That is precisely why people are keeping quiet wherever there is turbine noise because they know they will lose money. A neighbour of ours has a property near some turbines and it has been on the market for over a year and not one offer. How can it be that the adjoining landowners

in this scheme can be paid so handsomely yet we are penalised. Does the Board find this acceptable? Is this the Kiwi way?

I wish to raise the issue of Mighty River Power's deliberate avoidance of holding a proper public meetings. Deliberate tactics. They did have demonstrations in the foyer of the Convention Centre where people breezed in and out in their lunch hour and were dealt with individually. The reason they did not want a public meeting would seem to me to be because they did not want an audience to hear about the problems and issues that would be raised. We were originally visited one by one by Mike Omer.

Wind energy and other renewable sources certainly have their place today but, for goodness sake, why can't they put their turbines in more appropriate locations. Out at sea would be a start.

The cumulative effect with or without Motorimu is just dreadful. To say that the ranges are trashed with them so a whole lot more wont matter was the gist of one of the experts. Presumably he was handsomely paid for his opinion. We have got plenty of generation going from our area and there is no need to put this INDUSTRIAL power station all over the backdrop to the city.

Then there is the ridiculous ignoring of the future growth of the city. Where can it go? Not down on the flood plain where the soil is rich and the crops grow well. These very foothills are the future suburbs and the Cashmere Drive area is just the start. Who would want to buy a house or section with that prospect in front of you with its attendant noise.

The compromising of the Reserve and the water supply is just beyond belief. I would hope that it could be saved from this travesty and become a truly wonderful resource for flora and fauna for posterity - as it was originally gifted and intended.

So - if it is OK for the Waitakeres to be exempt from such industrial molestation I would expect that the backdrop to our city should be accorded the same privilege.

I implore you to take all our opposing submissions seriously and if at all possible decline this application in its entirety. If not at least to decline the turbines mentioned earlier.

I repeat: (respectfully)

'A subset of society should not be forced to bear the cost of a benefit for the larger society'

Thank you very much for the opportunity to say what is causing me so much anxiety, anger, frustration and stress. It has been a constant daily worry for the last three years.

At the end of the day I would have thought people are more important than profit.

Helen Harker