

Court Submission August 2009-08-17

My name is Janet Lang and I live at 297 Kahuterawa Road. I live with my husband on a 10 acre block of land that is partly forested and partly in pasture. I Have 2 daughters who do not reside with me, but refer to our house as the family home. I work part-time at UCOL and the remainder of my time is spent tending to my property. The nearest proposed turbine site to me are the turbines located on John Love's property and their numbers are [0126, 0125, 0124, 0123, 0122, 0052 ] We are just about exactly 2 kms away from these turbines.

I have lived in my home for 3 years and moved from Otaki to be closer to my husband's employment at Massey University. We lived in a semi rural setting on the beach at Otaki and were not keen to give up the open aspects of our Otaki home for a more urban residence in Palmerston North. We looked at several lovely properties before deciding on our present home. We fell instantly in love with our home, it was everything we had been looking for, not only was it remarkable close to the University, but it had pasture, mature trees, and magnificent views towards the Tararua Ranges. In our opinion, the views of the hills made this property stand out from all the others we had seen. As you approach our home, you don't see the view immediately, you have go through an opening in the fence and then it takes you quite by surprise. I always love the feeling I get from this special hidden aspect of the house. I feel instantly removed from the rush and dash of the city. When I'm in the house, all our bedrooms, my husbands office and my workroom, look out towards these hills. We have a clear uninterrupted view, its peaceful and serene and sets the atmosphere for our home. I don't want to look out and see the constant twirling, moving turbines from my bedroom. When I'm out in our paddocks, the hills form a backdrop to our property, and to me, they look different everyday, as each day, the weather and the light seem to provide a unique scene.

Not long after we had moved we heard from one of our neighbours that the proposed windfarm up in the ranges, was looking likely to get the go ahead. At first I wasn't in the least bit alarmed. I had in mind, a dozen or so wind turbines way back in the hills. What harm could they do to anyone? Then I started to hear how they were going to be very much closer than that. We had a visit from Mike Omar from Mighty River Power, and from that day on, it truly hit home what the impact of these turbines was going to mean to us. Our rural home was now to be placed on the edge of a large industrial complex and before that happened we would have endure the Kahuterawa Road becoming one of the the construction sites main access points.

There are two major aspects of the proposed windfarm that will have a huge impact on us. They are namely, the visual and the auditory aspects, which are involved in this whole windfarm construction. I'm so concerned about these, that writing and speaking this submission is a totally upsetting affair, as it brings home to me how the quality and peace of my life will change. As you are all by now aware, these are huge industrial machines. I have read that these turbines were originally designed to placed out at sea and not on land. We will clearly see 6 and see the top of another 8. I have seen the photomontages but I have never seen a moving image of what they will look like and it's the distraction

of their movements that in my mind will add to the visual impact, they will be impossible to miss. I believe the near constant spinning of the turbines will contribute a restlessness to my peace and enjoyment of our property, that I will find hard to tolerate. I have heard that MRP have advised us to build a screen of trees so that we won't have to see the turbines. This idea depresses me, as the view of the hills is what I love so much, I truly do not want to obscure this view. I see it as a privilege to be able to see the hills at sunset or in the mornings covered in mists, and I know I am speaking for all my immediate neighbours too. The uplifting sight of the Ranges is why we live where we do. It's special to us.

As an experiment, I allowed my hedge around my bedroom window to grow higher than my fence. I did this in response to something I read a couple of years ago, that MRP said we should do if we didn't want to see the turbines. I realised that to obscure the view of the hills from my property, I would need to grow trees up to 4 metres. How long would that take and how much light would it obscure? This is something I don't want to have to do. I love my home as it is and I don't want to surround myself by 4 metre high hedges! I believe this suggestion is simplistic and dismissive.

I realised the other day that it's not just the view of the hills from our property that will be damaged by these turbines but also the view of the hills as I drive along Kahuterawa Road on my way home from town. I always feel a sense of relief and enjoyment that I'm driving towards all this beautiful country side and that I'm lucky enough to live here. I know that feeling will be stolen from me if the view of the hills is covered in turbines. I also see the view from my office window at UCOL. When work colleagues visit me, they comment on how lucky I am to have this beautiful view. Yes I am lucky, we're all lucky, we share this beautiful, peaceful, vibrant backdrop to our city. I ask that we keep it that way for now and for the generations to come.

The other disturbing aspect for me is the noise that is generated by these machines. I do understand the controversy about this. I have read a great deal of publications regarding this topic. It's all a bit scientific but I know enough to know that we don't know enough! I know that living where we do the silence is profound, especially at night. I have been told that the turbines don't exceed 40 decibels, which is the noise of a quiet whisper, but I don't want to live with a quiet whisper 24/7. I want to remind everyone that 5 of these enormous turbines are 2kms from our home and I really do worry that the vibrations that will be generated by these machines will travel through the ground and into our house. This is the noise that is difficult to measure. This is the noise that you may not hear walking around outside but will hear as soon as your head hits the pillow. I clearly hear the freight trains at night and they are 11kms from our house. I am told that the noise level will be carefully monitored but by who? and can "little me" ring someone up at 2 00am and say we can't sleep and will anyone take any notice?

I have been informed by MRP that if there is any noise generated by the turbines, then I probably won't be able to hear it because our house faces away from the prevailing wind. The direction of the prevailing wind, I am told is from the west and the north west. I have been told by MRP that they have undertaken substantive tests in the ranges to determine

this fact. However I wish to state that from my house, the prevailing wind appears to come from the south, the south west and the south east. I know this because of the lean of the vegetation and trees on our property. I believe this is due to the effect of our house being in the Kahuterawa stream valley. That the westerly winds hit the hills and fall back down the valley. So a moderate westerly blow appears to come from the south, but isn't a "southerly" as such. I make this point to stress that the noise of the turbines in the hills will travel swiftly and frequently in the direction of my home. I have also been told that the trees may mask the noise of the turbines in the hills, but often there is wind on the hill tops and still around our house, which is sheltered in the valley bottom. I am anxious about the fact that under common meteorological circumstances, I will suffer the noise from the turbines, and I'm not reassured by MRP description of how the turbines will sound in my bedroom at midnight.

I also wish to talk about the disruption we will suffer as users of Kahuterawa Rd, in regard to the use of this road as part access to the industrial site. Kahuterawa Rd is a windy twisty country road. It is only 6.5 metres at its widest point and 5.5 metres at its narrowest. There are steep ditches on either side and if you pass a vehicle on any bend it is a close shave. There are very few verges or pull-overs, all this on a 100kms road. The road is frequently used by cyclist making their way to the beautiful recreation area at the end of Kahuterawa Rd. As a user of this road I am constantly on the look out for cyclists and one has to slow to crawl and wait till there is enough visibility on the road to pass safely. There is often stock on the road, farm vehicles and pedestrians. This is not a road that is suitable as an access to an industrial site. Even though MRP assure us that it'll be for a limited time and everything will be carefully monitored. My questions are these; How can anyone possibly say that large lorries [and these will be large lorries] travelling down Kahuterawa rd at even 50 kms is safe for any of the regular road uses? Even for a limited time. How can MRP be sure of this "limited time"? I observe that these turbines arrive in sets, all of the proposed turbines will not arrive at once, this I am certain. How can MRP be sure that K Rd is not more or less in continually use for 3-5 years? What redress do we have in putting up with having our safety being compromised for this length of time? I am very concerned about this issue.

I am disturbed by the impact this windfarm will have on the Turitea reserve. I can see a portion of this from my property and I am fortunate enough to have daily visits from the birds that live there, Tui's bellbirds and kureru to name just a few. It pains me to think that 26 hectares of this precious native bush will be destroyed by the windfarm in the reserve. I believe that 26 hectares is a conservative estimate. This is because I feel sure that the weather will kill off many of the surrounding trees once a hole has been made in the forests canopy. It seems totally ironic that MRP intends to take down this forest in order to provide "green" energy. I don't want this reserve to be used in this way, and as a citizen of Palmerston North I am intitled to express this.

In summary, I wish to state that I oppose the whole idea of a windfarm in the Turitea Reserve and the surrounding private properties. I feel that myself, my family and my community will be disadvantaged in many ways, with no means of redress for the

inconvenience and the reduction in our quality of life that will result. I feel that this region already has hundreds of wind turbines and more to come from Motorimu. I believe that our region has done it's bit for wind power generation. I don't want to see the hills that form a backdrop to my home and my city also covered in windturbines. I hate to contemplate the vision of this mass accumulation of windfarms and their restless disturbing Impact on our ranges.