

**Submitter**

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**Turitea Windmill hearing**

I personally believe that the Manawatu is to become the 'FALL GUY' for the New Zealand Government and its ultimate position it wants to have under a hidden agenda in having sufficient carbon credits to be able to sell and /or trade with.

It seems to me that the Manawatu can have as many windmills erected with no study being done on cumulative noise effects.

We supported the building of the Te Apiti Wind farm as we believe that New Zealand needed to look and be involved in alternative energy sources but enough is enough. At that time I believed what the experts were saying in relation to noise and the distance houses needed to be from the windmills but what we now experience I find statements made then were a fallacy. Until the erection of the little two bladed windmills We did not realise that windmills would be visible from our gate. There are definitely more occasions per year that we can hear the day long continual noise that the windmills develop. The noise is all around us unfortunately I am not able to distinguish which of the wind farms the noise is coming from therefore I cannot complain to the Council about the noise. Listening to it all day is tiring and makes me very grumpy. You cannot get away from it and I will not wear earmuffs all day. We have a property that is the most fully planted for trees to eliminate peripheral noise in the district. On an aerial map it is clearly identifiable because of the heavy green blob on the map. I can hear it when I am inside. We live on the flight path but noise from an incoming plane or one that is taking off is only there for a few minutes it is not there from the time you wake up until one eventually gets to sleep. Noise coming over a property that is made from a site that it is higher than where you are carries over other properties it is not like building a buffer fence or an absorbent hedge or the like alongside motorways and streets to eliminate traffic noise.

I found it very difficult to believe the noise we heard when we visited a friend's property in Woodville and were told that that was the noise they had to listen to on most days. The noise was like a steam train never getting to anywhere.

In some of the reading that I have been doing recently Professor Jack Steinberger a Nobel Prize winning Director of the Cern particle Physics laboratory in Geneva has said that wind represented an illusory technology like a cul-de-sac that would prove uneconomic and a waste of resources in the battle against climate change. He told an international symposium of 60 Nobel laureates at the Royal Society in London. Steinberger claims that new technologies such as solar thermal power – for which parabolic mirrors are used to reflect the Sun's rays to generate heat and electricity – represented a far more promising and reliable way to supplant fossil fuels and achieve rapid cuts in global carbon dioxide emissions. He is quoted as saying that a 3 to 3.5 gigawatt solar thermal project in North Africa, which would generate enough electricity to supply two million homes would cost 51 billion New Zealand dollars to build. There are commercial-scale solar thermal power plants operating in Spain, the United States and Germany and I think that the Government should be encouraging the power companies who are building all these windmills to put some of their development money into looking at solar plants. Some homes in New Zealand have found that they can cut electricity costs by building into their homes solar panels for water heating and the like. These are the energy systems that development money should be

going into. Not spoiling our environment with noise that we cannot turn off and have to suffer from.

Solar panels are not going to become such a blot on the environment landscape. Their footprint on the landscape will be considerably smaller and there would not be the depth of excavations needed to build them.

Statistics being cited that windmills fall within stated noise levels have often been taken at periods when the wind run is also considerably less and the power being generated is also considerable less but you do not seem to get tables showing wind run versus power generated for the same period. It is a case of all experts can make figures tell the story they want to promote to suit their argument. The likes of myself, do not have the capabilities of being able to dispute a companies Noise levels on a cost effective basis as they do not give the other side of the argument as to how much power is generated in the same period. Imagine the power that could be generated on the still days in a year with solar panels. Solar panels will work in wind and calm conditions. A win win for everyone.

I also cannot understand that with a "crows flight line" of 2.5 kilometre edge from windmill to closest house on the Te Apiti Windmill farm and the large amount of complaints that have been publicly made about noise it is now deemed it can be closer for the newer applications. From what I have read and studied I would believe that at least 3 kilometres should actually be allowed as a minimum distance for noise that affects health and well being. I do not believe that existing property holders have to have their environment affected by conditions that the experts know exist but will not publicly acknowledge because that then puts the business plan of erecting the wind mills at risk. There is a lot of moral dishonesty in the process.

Mighty river are good at only doing selective information – to state one example – In their publicity blurb that went into our mail boxes headed Turitea Wind farm Update May 2009. On page two a picture shows *trial plantings that have been made over the past two years to try and determine what species survive the harsh environment on the Tararua Range Ridgeline. (To quote the blurb)*

BUT no information as to what species are being used or which is growing best nor does the picture actually allow a viewer to identify that it is actually a planting on the Tararua Ridgeline.

A perfect case of selective information in my opinion. It was also interesting that we only got a May and June update as Mighty River tried to put there side to the public at the time the submissions were closing. They seem unwilling to continue to tell us anything else. Were these put out as a pat on the back to Mighty River.

I believe that there is too much single one eyed focus on power being generated by wind mills as the only alternative source of optional power types. The Government must ensure that one community is not the one bearing the brunt of alternative power for the whole of New Zealand and consideration must be given to accumulating noise. The consents must take into account accumulation of the wind mills on a visual basis and on producing cumulative noise levels. They can no longer be looked at on a consent by consent basis in isolation to everything else.

I would like to close my comments by rebutting some of the negative feeling as expressed in the media last week after Dr Waters submission to the hearing about lifestyle owners changing the scenery and then objecting when another wishes to change the scenery with the erection of windmills. The lifestylers do not make the same amount of noise the windmills produce and also lifestylers have used their land and made a better environment of the ground as it is doing more than just growing gorse. A big number of these landholders have cleared what areas of ground that were completely gorse covered and

turned them into a amore eye pleasing environment. Neither did Mr Waters explain (for the media to report) how much he expects to make financially out of this project.