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Turitea Wind Farm Proposal

*Not until the last tree has been felled
The last fish caught
And the last river poisoned
Will they realize, they cannot eat money*

Submitters
Tony and Shona Paewai

*Hutia te rito ō te harakeke
Kei hea te kōmako e ko
Ki mai ki ahau
He aha te mea mui ō tēnei ao
Maku e ki atu
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.*

*Ko Maungaraki te maunga
Ko Ruamahanga te awa
Ko Taki Timu te waka
Ko Ngāti Kahungunu te iwi
Ki Wairarapa tōku tūrangawaewae
Ko Hurumiorangi te marae
Ko Tony Paewai tōku ingoa.
No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.*

I served in the RNZAF for 21 years 5 months as an Aeronautical Metal Worker, and since leaving in August '99 I have instructed light and medium engineering at Manawatu Prison.

I met my, to be wife, while serving at Ohakea where she worked as a medic in the RNZAF. We were married at Southwards Car Museum on the 4th February 1984. Our son was born on the 27 March 1985 and our twin daughters on the 16 April 1986.

The last 11 years of my service I spent in Woodbourne, just out of Blenheim. My wife is a keen horse rider, as is one of our daughters and I grew up in rural Wairarapa.

In order to have grazing for our horses we brought 5 acres in Wairau Valley in 1994 our backdrop were the Richmond Ranges. This was our first real opportunity to afford a small holding so we could pursue the lifestyle we both enjoy.

We brought our property of 11 acres at Millrick Line in late 1999. I started my new job in August of '99 and my family joined me in January 2000. We stayed with my in-laws while we built my workshop and made it live able until our home was built.

The open vistas that our elevated position offers are, in my opinion, breathtaking and, in the view of some of my friends, very special. The comfort to be gained from the supporting hillside structure is like a reassuring hug from your mother. It feels like you are in a loving embrace of Papatūānuku-mother earth.

In cultural terms, we came from mother earth. She provides us sustenance, comfort and the means for spiritual well being. In turn we treat her like our mother.

We are country people. We have brought our children up in an atmosphere that can only be experienced in small rural communities. The fact that this rural community is only 10 minutes from a city makes it even more special and the experience a gift of a lifetime. Our children's lifetime. In the last 10 years of working in a prison environment, I have learnt many things. One thing stands out in particular. It is that of a lack of boundaries. When I was growing up, the boundaries were firmly set by my parents, teachers and local authorities. All of which I questioned in one way or another. This was the accepted way to learn what is expected of us in the society we were being prepared to

be part of. Now, the boundaries are either, blurred, non existent, or in some cases, circular. The result, a larger prison population due to blurred boundaries or total lack of boundary setting procedures.

What has this got to do with a wind farm? The boundaries, with regards to how we as people experience our environment, is being set by academics who speak a new language. A language where, depending upon your level of education, can have lots of different meanings. As a tradesman, I only know how to deal with real things. I do not understand some of the airy fairy descriptions imposed on us and especially how an outsider whom I have never met, can tell me what I enjoy in my environment. This is an imposition that I have endured since the start of the Motorimu debacle.

As an engineer, I find the wind turbines an awesome piece of machinery. They are big, have large rotating steel components and cast an impressive picture on the landscape. But there comes a point, when one has to stand back and take hold of what is happening around them before it is too late. Is it worth while, cutting down trees, carving roadways into the countryside, forcing people to gaze on these large rotating structures as they grind away, day in and day out. Is it worth while making people uncomfortable in their own home, their only retreat from the normal hustle and bustle of life. Is it worth while turning neighbor upon neighbor in the pursuit of the mighty dollar. Because when it comes down to it, that is what this is all about. The mighty dollar.

We have no intention of entering into a debate of noise effects cumulative or not, visual effects cumulative or not or even on the effects of power supply. These subjects are getting enough attention without my input. What we are keen on though, is the effect this proposal and many like it in this area, is having on the heart and soul of this environment. The part of the environment that makes it tick, gives it life and gives it meaning. We are, of course, talking about people. We are two of those people that have been living in the shadow of an unwanted development that changed our way of thinking. It made us listen more closely to those who would appear as one thing, but in the true light of day, cast the shadow of a wolf. In the words of a famous anonymous person, "Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery"

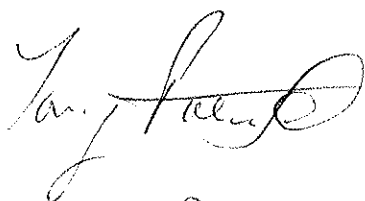
As one of the affected parties to the Motorimu proposal, the thing that stood out for us was the paragraph at 8.9 of the Commissioners decision. This decision was echoed in a very similar way in the resultant decision of the Environment court. Those turbines that were of concern were approximately 900mtrs directly up the hill from my home. There were a lot of families in the same or similar situation. The proposed Turitea turbines are bigger and closer to a lot more houses. We are struggling to see how any of this can be mitigated to an extent where the affected parties can successfully provide for their health and well being in the face of an SOE with what seems like endless resources and the ability to buy out any opposition or possible future problems. Mighty River Power have brought the consent for a further 80 turbines somewhat inferior to the turbines they are looking at installing in the Turitea proposal, mainly due to, size and rated output. In no way can a comparison be drawn between the location and impact of

the 80 consented Motorimu turbines and the suggested location within the Turitea development and the impact that will have on the environment.

This is indeed a short submission, but it is one from our hearts. We are genuinely concerned for the people who will be directly affected by this proposal. From our previous experience with wind farm developers, the information supplied is tilted in their favor. Problems are brought out and become part of a confidentiality agreement, the secrecy involved in the preliminary stages almost rivals that of the KGB, and the people become obstacles that can be made to go away by throwing money at them.

The sooner that regulatory bodies put in proper guidelines as to the placement of wind farms in order to satisfy the health and safety of people and the protection of outstanding landscapes, the sooner our rural communities will return to the enriching environment which drew the people there to start with.

It is for these reasons that we are against this proposal in its entirety.



Tony PAEA



SHAWA PAEA