

Your Honour, Members of the Board

I don't plan to repeat things I have said in my earlier submissions, they are still valid, as I have heard nothing during this hearing that has altered my view that this windfarm should be declined in full.

You heard last week of my particular concerns about the 22 turbines that are within 3 km of RVP3 and our home. Having visited our property I'm sure you are beginning to understand what this proposal might mean to us. One thing that seems to have gotten lost in this discussion is that much of our recreational and farming activity takes place on the farm, away from the house.

For example, we are fortunate to have a hidden waterfall in an area of regenerating bush, at the base of which is a tranquil pool, and where nearby we have established a campsite that has been frequently used by our family (of all ages) and our friends over many years. Please have a look at these:

- Slides 2-7

In addition, as a farming family, many activities take place on the 200 or so acres that are closest to the house. Much of this is centred on our cattle yards, deer handling facilities and hayshed which is located approx 1 km south of the house and approximately 500 metres from turbine 90:

- Slides 8-12

For those activities closer to home Poff's Hill is our closest feature and is visible from everywhere:

- Slides 13-15

It has been pointed out that our house is orientated away from the ranges. There are indeed large windows facing north and north-west. That's where the most sunshine comes from that warms our home. That's why it faces this way. Small windows facing east cut down the thermal loss, and limit the full blast of the east-south-easterly winds we frequently experience. But they do not limit the views we have in all directions.

The turbines are so enormous that no amount of planting would screen these from view. And who would want to screen out this:

- Slides 16-21

The adverse visual impact will be even greater if the Turitea Windfarm goes ahead. It would be greatly reduced with the removal of those 22 turbines we've discussed, yet much of our property would remain within 4 km of the Group D and E turbines. They will still be visible and noise is still likely to be an issue. Lee and Ash have addressed our concerns in this respect.

It is true that I don't want such huge structures in my back yard, because that is literally where they are proposed. But nor do I want to see the landscape so comprehensively changed from wherever in the wider Palmerston North area I happen to be. I have already described this in an earlier submission. It is hard enough now to accept the ones already built. In my opinion, Palmerston North deserves better than to lose the backdrop that provides significant visual relief to the flat plain on which it is built.

Our neighbours across the valley are only just beginning to appreciate what is in store for them. They had not seen the photomontage from RPV23 before submissions closed and their focus has been on trying to deal with the noise from Te Rere Hau. But we have all seen the impact on one family, already forced to move away. There are over 75 households in "The Track" vicinity and I know many of them. Apart from the contracted landowners, I can think of fewer than half a dozen who support this proposal.

The ranges have been our playground. My first ever tramp back in 1966 when still at high school was from the Balance Bridge in the Gorge along the tops to the junction of North Range Road and the Pahiatua Track. We have continued to enjoy this environment, until the arrival of Te Rere Hau.

- Slides 22-25

I do not believe that Palmerston North has become a wind energy city. The existing windfarms may well be a tourist attraction – but such visitors don't have to live with them in their face on a daily basis. It is very easy for them to say how beautiful the turbines are, and then hand the baby back to its parents while they depart for their own turbine-free landscapes.

I have to say that the 13 months since we first heard of this proposal has been the most stressful period I have experienced in my life. It has impacted my ability to carry out my job; I am currently weeks behind in my required deliverables. But more important has been the effect on my family. I am sure there are many, many times the children have wished that the windfarm proposal would disappear, along with the irritable, morose, unsociable person their mother has become while she tries to deal with it.

So what of the future?

Based on the experience we have had during the "consultation" process, when MRP kept us in the dark for as long as possible, I have no confidence in their ability to keep us informed and deal with our concerns as any windfarm is built. I have heard repeatedly during this hearing, how MRP made the PNCC aware of their plans from the outset. Why, then, did we not hear from them until July 2008, just two weeks before the first public open day? Why did they never consult with us at the time when they were considering turbines for our land? Why were our neighbours never allowed to discuss what was happening?

We can expect years more of continuing worry, however many turbines are consented, until we know what the affects will be on us and our lifestyle. Yes, I understand there is a purported benefit for the country in this proposal, but I don't believe it outweighs the sacrifice that our family, our neighbours and many others like us will have to make. We should not be expected to lie down and accept it with no compensation for what we will have lost.

If Mighty River Power is so sure that we will not be significantly affected, please will they put their money where their mouth is and guarantee to buy us out if we can't stay? But what will the property be worth then? No-one will want to buy it. I hope the Board has read the submission from Gill Welch, Real Estate Agent, who lives and works in our area.

And what about the cost to individual families? In the worst case scenario – if all these turbines are built and I find myself unable to live in my own home, but my husband wishes to continue farming the land he has worked so hard on for the last 22 years. Where does that leave us? Living in different places? If the Board of Inquiry and Mighty River Power are willing to accept responsibility for the break-up of a family then go right ahead and consent this windfarm.

These ranges have spiritual significance for us. But if this windfarm is consented, there will be no point saying, as I often do now, "I will lift mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help." It will be "from whence cometh my despair" instead. Please halt the invasion of turbines at the Pahiatua Track.

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