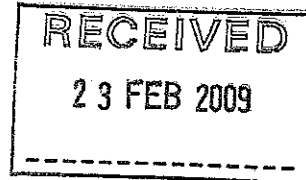


263

Your name and address, including a phone number, fax number and email address (if applicable).

Quentin Bourke



Details of the application(s) for resource consent in respect of which you are making the submission.

Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council land use consents 104553 and 104554
Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council discharge permits 104555, 104556, 104557, 104558, 104559, and 104560.
Palmerston North City Council land use consents RC0068
Tararua District Council land use consents 1448

Whether you support or oppose the relevant application(s) for resource consent, or whether you are neutral about the application(s).

I oppose the granting of all the resource consents applied for

The reasons for your views.

There are four main reasons for my views;

Degradation of the aesthetics of the Tararua range

I am concerned that the proposed placement of the Windturbines will destroy a natural landscape. In my view the Manawatu plains are delineated by the range. As such the Tararua forms a large part of the identity of the Manawatu. To place windturbines on them in full view from large swathes of the Manawatu region (and beyond) desecrates this identity of the Manawatu. This identity is a component that all Manawatu citizens live with and which forms both a figurative and literal natural backdrop to their lives and communities. Windturbines placed as proposed would impose themselves unnaturally into the landscape creating an imposition that cannot be avoided and indeed is one I argue one should not need to. In some respects I consider the placement of Windturbines in such visually prominent and imposing positions akin to despoiling a waterway, it is no longer acceptable to disrupt an ecosystem for some near term expediency.

I also think it is wrong that structures which will be in view 100% of the time and are there for economic merit only yet are which are only likely to be utilized for one third of the time can be foisted onto a community. The vista that the range provides is a natural one. It is one uninterrupted by manmade structures. Placement of constructed structures on that view ruins it in its entirety, it is not as if parts of a view can be separated so that one can limit ones view to certain parts and not others. In this I think the impact assessment report (appendix k) is somewhat misleading in that while they write of turbines dominating or not dominating a view they cannot state that the turbines will not be visible. In addition the writing of turbines dominating or not dominating implies that components of a view can be considered in isolation as if components can be segregated. I argue this is not the case. I also think the impact reports use of information obtained from perception studies is weak in that surveyed respondents were asked to give an opinion on something that did not actually exist i:e one they had no real experience of, or in the case of the Australian studies, providing no context to the studies such that it is unknown how visible the turbines were to respondents. Stating that the Australian sites had similar populations to Palmerston North city is also a weak argument given that the Australian density of population is much less and their scale of landscape is so different. It is also mischievous of the report to support its conclusion with a statement that there is a high level of acceptance simply because there are viewing platforms. One could argue that these are areas either provided by local councils to make a virtue of a necessity or where people are going to lament the destruction of a landscape.

Concerns for the environmental impact

I am concerned that the construction and ongoing maintenance of the windturbines and their associated infrastructure will cause adverse environmental impacts. The construction of the turbines and infrastructure is acknowledged to physically disrupt the ecosystems within the designated area. I argue that once disturbed an ecosystem cannot revert back to type but is required to adapt to a new environment. Hence a disruption caused by a construction project ineluctably destroys an ecosystem which has more or less evolved independently of artificial features and without significant intrusion. Were the turbines to be constructed their ongoing maintenance would necessarily mean these environments would be regularly be intruded into by to here to fore unknown quantities of alien matter, any part of which may prove to be invasive (eg wilding pine seeds thrown from a vehicle tread). Indeed it is more than likely any establishment of windturbines and their access routes would encourage public use of environments now largely uninterrupted by ongoing intrusion and intervention. The Manawatu has a terrible legacy of environmental destruction - the significance of the small Keebles bush as a surviving remnant of the Manawatu forest is testimony to this – and I fear the proposed project will only add to that legacy.

Concerns for the impact on the water catchment

I am concerned that construction activity and diesel storage in the proximity of the

Turitea water supply catchment creates an avoidable risk to the Palmerston North city water supply. The putative reward offered from windfarming does not outweigh the risk to the water, an essential of life.

Dubious economic value

Windfarms do not provide a reliable source of energy. They are active only within certain bands of windspeed. Their establishment is therefore creating a false sense of security as any energy they generate must, if it is to be relied on, be underpinned by alternative sources of energy. I argue that windfarms do not solve energy issues they merely create a diversionary step in the process of resolving sustainable energy supply and create costs which are not worth bearing in their own right.

The decision you wish the Board of Inquiry to make, including the general nature of any conditions sought.

To decline the application of Mighty River Power to construct Windturbines and the associated infrastructure in the Tararua Range.

Whether or not you wish to be heard in respect of your submission.

I do not wish to be heard

