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# SUBMISSION ON MIGHTY RIVER POWER LTD APPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE CONSENT

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

To: Freepost Call In  
Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

OR Email: turiteacallin@mfe.govt.nz  
Fax: 04 439 7705

[Note: If you are emailing or faxing your submission, please mark in the subject line: 'Turitea Call In']

This submission relates to the applications for resource consent lodged by Mighty River Power Ltd for the Turitea Wind Farm proposal as identified on the next page.

RECEIVED  
23 FEB 2009

## CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5.00 PM MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2009

Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms (Please circle the appropriate title(s) or print clearly below)

My/Our Full Name(s): Petrus Hendricus Janssen

Postal Address: 155A Victoria Avenue, Hokowhitu, Palmerston North 4410

Work Ph: 06 351 8300 Home Ph: 06 354 8530 Cell:

Work Fax: 06 351 8003 Home Fax: Email: peter.janssen@agresearch.co.nz

Please tick the relevant boxes on the next page to identify whether you are making a submission on all applications for resource consent or just some of them (please identify).

Please also indicate on the back of this form (✓) whether you support, oppose, or are neutral in relation to the applications. If you are making a submission only on parts of an application for resource consent, please note this when specifying the reasons for your submission.

The reasons for my/our submission are: If you are attaching further information tick for yes

See attached document

Please use more pages if you need to.

I/we seek the following decision from the Board of Inquiry (provide precise details including the nature of any conditions sought):

To prevent resource consent being granted for the current Turitea Wind Farm proposal on the basis of its massive industrialisation of the local landscape and its intrusion into the Turitea Reserve, which should never be used for anything other than its current uses.

Please use more pages if you need to.

Use a clear tick in the appropriate box below (✓)

I/we wish to be heard in respect of my/our submission (to speak at the public hearing).

I/we DO NOT wish to be heard and hereby make my/our submission in writing only.

Signature(s): P Janssen

Date: 22 Feb 2009

(Signature of submitter, or person authorised to sign on their behalf is required. Note signature is not required for electronic (email) submissions. If this is a joint submission by two or more individuals, each individual's signature is required.)



Use the tick boxes below to indicate the called-in applications for resource consent that your submission concerns.  
Use a clear tick in the appropriate box or boxes (✓).

I/we make my/our submission concerning all applications for resource consent below

OR

My/our submission only concerns the applications for resource consent that I/we have ticked below:

	Support	Oppose	Neutral
<b>Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Land-use Consents</b>			
104553: for vegetation clearance and land disturbance in rare or threatened habitats, near streams and on highly erodible land throughout the general wind farm site.		✓	
104554: for the construction of a double culvert in an un-named tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream as shown on the included map.		✓	
<b>Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Discharge Permits</b>			
104555: for the discharge of dust to air from the concrete batching plants to be located as generally shown on the included map.		✓	
104556: for the discharge of dust to air from the mobile crushing plant throughout the general wind farm site.		✓	
104557: for the discharge of wastewater from two operations and maintenance facilities to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.		✓	
104558: for the discharge of stormwater from substations to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.		✓	
104559: for the discharge of cleanfill to land in the form of spoil disposal sites throughout the general wind farm site.		✓	
104560: for the discharge of stormwater from roads, turbine platforms and other areas to land.			✓
<b>Palmerston North City Council – Land-use Consents</b>			
RC0068: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to establish and operate a wind farm in the areas within the Palmerston North city jurisdiction as generally shown on the included map</li> <li>to undertake earthworks associated with tracking and roading, turbine construction and associated buildings in the areas within the Palmerston North city jurisdiction as generally shown on the included map</li> <li>for the western side of Pahiatua Aokautere Road not meeting access requirements at the location shown on the included map</li> <li>for the storage of diesel (10,000 L) in bunded areas outside the Turitea water supply catchment, generally located at the two substation laydown areas shown on the included map, that exceeds the 0.2 effects ratio maximum in the rural zone</li> <li>for the construction of a 220 kV electricity transmission line and substations as shown on the included map.</li> </ul>		Oppose all	
<b>Tararua District Council – Land-use Consents</b>			
1448: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for a wind farm (which is not listed as a permitted or controlled activity) in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map</li> <li>for land disturbance of more than 200 m<sup>3</sup> of soil and cleanfill material associated with tracking and roading, turbine construction, spoil disposal and other associated works in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map</li> <li>for upgrades to South Range Road and the construction of new site access at the location shown on the included map</li> <li>for turbine and wind monitoring mast structures not meeting height requirements within the Tararua District</li> <li>for the modification of a Significant Natural Feature in Schedule 3.3 (ie, Tararua Ranges Ridgeline)</li> <li>for not meeting noise requirements</li> <li>for clearance of indigenous vegetation in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map.</li> </ul>		Oppose all	

NOTE: A copy of this submission form MUST also be sent to Mighty River Power Ltd at:

Freepost – MRP  
Mighty River Power Ltd  
PO Box 445  
Hamilton 3240  
Attention: Stephanie Froggatt

Or email [turitea@mightyriver.co.nz](mailto:turitea@mightyriver.co.nz) or fax (07) 857 0192

I/we have sent a copy of my/our submission to Mighty River Power Ltd as per Section 96(4) of the RMA.



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
Manatū Ahu Te Taiao

New Zealand Government

**Submission relating to applications for resource consent by Mighty River Power Ltd for the Turitea Wind Farm proposal**

**Further information on submission made by:**

Petrus Hendricus Janssen

155A Victoria Avenue, Hokowhitu, Palmerston North 4410

I oppose the scale of the increase in the number of wind turbines in the Manawatu and Taranaki areas proposed by Mighty River Power Ltd, and I oppose totally the placement of *any* wind turbines in the Turitea Reserve. There are many arguments that make the current proposal unacceptable. These include the deterioration of the visual landscape of the region by the presence of some 260 additional turbines, the possible impact on the water quality for Palmerston North, and the changes (both actual physical and potentially damaging) to the Turitea Reserve due to destruction of the existing vegetation, earthmoving, road building, and ongoing access to maintain any turbines located there. These concerns have been very well publicised.

Any decision to go ahead with construction of the full number of turbines in the general area, and of *any* turbines at all within the reserve, will result in further destruction of New Zealand's landscape and natural heritage under the banner of progress. This "progress" is, of course, a euphemism for the production of a capital gain from any asset, natural or otherwise. A necessity to obtain a financial gain on all landscape is a sign of a society that chooses to value its landscapes for their economic potential only, rather than as a place that people live in. Only when New Zealanders finally see their landscape as their home, rather than as a capital asset to be used to generate a financial return, can we say that we have chosen these islands as our true home. A land-use ethic based on exploitation is the attitude of a temporary

visitor, of a colonial exploiter, rather than of a true inhabitant. It is true that all development of landscapes cannot not be opposed purely as a matter of principle, and of course New Zealanders have already massively altered the landscape of these islands. Responsible development may be appropriate for some areas, if it *improves* the overall value of the landscape in all aspects, not just financial. However, excesses and ignorance in the past do not excuse their continuation in the present and future. Further deterioration of the landscape by the addition of some 260 new wind turbines in the Manawatu and Tararua area is unacceptable because it is based on a narrow definition of value of the landscape within which they would be placed.

The current Turitea Wind Farm proposal would result in a massive industrialisation of the local landscape, and an intrusion incompatible with the *implicit* intention of land use in the Turitea Reserve. While the evolution of means of renewable energy generation is laudable, it cannot be at the cost of other aspects of our environment. If there is a true need for more electricity generation because of a shortage in capacity, then we should aim first at reducing electricity and energy demand. Such a campaign has not been organised. If reduction of demand is unacceptable because power companies need to maintain or increase (rather than reduce) the demand for electricity so they make money and remain viable, then the Turitea Windfarm development will be an economic exploitation rather than an energy-generating necessity. Landscape should not be sacrificed to make money. If the project is not to make money but to increase supply for New Zealand's energy balance sheet, then reduction in demand must be used instead. Small increases in supply to meet the requirements of an expanding population and replacement of non-renewable generation should be spread over the country so as not to impact too greatly in any one area, and must avoid development in areas of high landscape, utility, natural or cultural value.

If an argument is made that an increase in wind turbine numbers is for the national good, it should be tempered with the realisation of local impact. A national good is an abstract concept, but the local effects are real and obvious and lasting to the people of the region affected. An absolute local impact cannot be ignored, since it affects real people, while a national good can be solved in many potential ways, including other more equitable distribution of wind turbines and energy saving programs. Visual pollution of the Tararua Ranges, potential drinking water deterioration for Palmerston North, and damage to the Turitea Reserve cannot be considered a fair trade-off for a reduction of other *potential* environmental damage that *might* be caused by other forms of energy generation. Each case must be judged with the local context as its *primary* consideration, since the local effects are the most irreversible and real. Alternative placement of wind turbines elsewhere in the country, on modest and less intrusive scales, is a *possibility*. In contrast, the visual impacts of some 260 new wind turbines and intrusion into the Turitea Reserve would be real.

It is time for New Zealanders to declare that the era of rampant development of our landscape is over, and a more careful and considered use is now required. Development in reserves, parks, and areas of natural and cultural significance, or areas with high utility values (such as maintaining certainty of high quality water supply or landscape protection from flooding or erosion) must be stopped completely. These areas should not be seen as locked-up remnants of what we might wish to preserve, but instead the points from which a harmonised land use will spread out over New Zealand, coupling moderate and considerate use for commercial purposes with visual and natural appeal and high public amenity value.

The refusal to grant resources consent to Mighty River Power Ltd for its proposed massive overdevelopment on the Tararua Ranges, and its intrusion into the Turitea Reserve, is the only decision that can be made by a society that plans on living on these islands for as long as possible. Refusal to grant resources consent prevents the irreversible local effects on the areas affected by the proposal, and adds to the on-going call that our landscape is more than something to be exploited for financial gain.

End of this text