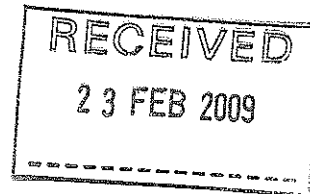


Turitea Wind Farm

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This submission relates to all the applications for resource consent lodged by Mighty River Power (MRP). I support all applications for resource consent listed in the application with the exception of the construction of the Plantation Substation – Browns Flat Substation 220 kV transmission line, on which I am neutral pending clarification.

I own section 27 and my parents, who I farm in partnership with, section 28 of the plan property identification in the resource consent application. In the proposal our farm would likely have 6 turbines and an access road from the Pahiatua Track. We have Wind Farm Generation Agreements with MRP and are in the process of negotiating details of the access road.

My family has farmed here on the Pahiatua Track for nearly eighty years and I intend doing so into the future. To date the wind running across our property has helped produce low coloured wool, I welcome the opportunity to make something more out of this fantastic resource. I live at 303 Balance Valley Road which is down wind of two existing wind farms depending on the wind direction, Te Rere Hau with the prevailing westerly and Taranua when the wind is more from the northerly quarter. From various parts of our farm we view the existing turbines on the range. I live and work in the outdoors and regard the existing turbines as an enhancement on the landscape and regularly use the direction and operation of the turbines as an indicator of current weather conditions.

I submit that the Turitea development will have less visual impact than either Te Rere Hau or Taranua wind farms. This proposal is for large turbines of a uniform configuration, this is preferable to either of these existing wind farms in my opinion. Large turbines are more spread out to maximise the wind resource and as a consequence of their size they have to have slower revolution speeds which is calmer on the eye than smaller turbines. Not having mixed size turbines in the same view is also "easier on the eye".

I commend MRP for the thoroughness of their application and have taken pleasure in finding out more about my property. I am intrigued that the pit (former cart/barrow track to quarry near access to turbine 0103) in our "pits paddock" is an archaeological feature. In truth this site is fortunate to be there given the bulldozing prowess of my grandfather!

I regard MRP as a good fit for developing this site, they are a state owned enterprise, which we all share ownership of and they also have a large hydro generation portfolio which I regard as a good match with wind generation. Use of this resource will allow them to better utilise their hydro resources.

Most of my business is involved with the farming of sheep and cattle which are producers of green house gases; I welcome the opportunity to be involved in a project which will offset this. Human induced global warming does appear as a reality as is increased demand for energy; this type of development appears to help solve both of these problems. Increased electricity production from renewables will allow New Zealand to meet our increasing demand for electricity from conventional sources and also substitute away from some of our more damaging sources of energy e.g electric cars. My house is connected to the grid and for convenience I leave my computer running!

The fact that a large portion of this project takes place on council land (PNCC) to some degree caters for the community cost in having a wind farm in their area for the western community. That is, not all people regard wind farms in such a positive light as me and the council revenue generated to some extent meets this cost. It is less clear how the eastern community are catered for in this regard. This is probably an issue that shouldn't be addressed in an individual resource consent application but something that the industry or region as whole will need to address given the size and quality of the resource we have in this area.

Plantation Substation – Browns Flat Substation 220 kV Transmission Line

I have reservations about the eastern portion of this line where it appears on the plans to run along the sky line when viewed from the east. It is unclear from the photo montages whether the proposed transmission line has been included or not e.g. view point 7b. Clearly the line doesn't want to be visible from Palmerston North either, I submit that this line could be relocated down into the gully within the Turitea reserve itself and not be visible from either side. This would require some additional earth works within the reserve however I think on balance this would be preferable if it reduces the visual impact of the development. I.e. short term increase in disturbance within the reserve verses a long term reduction in visual impact. I would also bring to the boards attention that gross ground disturbance through very poor tree harvesting practice have allowed within the reserve immediately opposite my property in recent years with no advantageous trade off!

I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Andrew Day