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**Kim Morgan**

**From:** Robert McLachlan [r.mclachlan@massey.ac.nz]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 February 2009 4:24 p.m.  
**To:** TuriteaCallin  
**Cc:** turitea@mightyriver.co.nz  
**Subject:** Turitea Call In



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

Our full names: **Professor Robert McLachlan FRSNZ and Ms Fiona McKergow**

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email: **f\_mckergow@yahoo.co.nz and r.mclachlan@massey.ac.nz**

The reasons for our submission are:

1. We are not opposed to all windfarms, but we are opposed to this one. New Zealand needs many more windfarms, but not this one. We support the Moturimu Windfarm a few kilometres from our house. New Zealand (and, indeed, the Manawatu) has plenty of suitable sites for windfarms that do not have the environmental disadvantages of Turitea.
2. There is potential jeopardy to the water supply of Palmerston North.
3. We are opposed to creating an industrialized landscape in and surrounding a natural landscape (ie native bush).
4. We are opposed to pitting one environmental goal (renewable energy) against another (preservation of natural ecosystems) where alternatives exist.
5. The Manawatu has relatively highly altered landscapes and ecosystems compared to other regions of New Zealand. The Turitea water reserve is the only sizeable area of native bush within 15km of Palmerston North. It forms a crucial part of the ecosystem for the native birds that fly between the water reserve and Palmerston North and a precious link in the bush that used to run continuously from the Tararuas to the Ruahines providing a vital pathway for birds and seeds. Thus, while it may not rank highly nationally for conservation values, it is vital locally.
6. It is a highly visible local landmark and thousands of people enjoy the view of bush-clad hills as they drive down Fitzherbert Avenue every day. This would be destroyed probably forever if the windfarm went ahead.
7. The same arguments would apply if the bush were on private land. However, in this case it is on land owned by the PN City Council that originated and pushed for this windfarm, probably because of the royalty income - a tiny proportion of the total revenue of the scheme when operating. Their decision to rezone the land for industrial use was comprised by this conflict of interest. On private land this scheme would rightly never have gotten off the ground. Thus, a decision involving many hundreds of millions of dollars and permanent damage to landscape and ecosystems is being made on the basis of the tiny percentage of that sum that goes to the Council.
8. The Council has not been a good caretaker of the Turitea Water Reserve. Over the past century (and still today) they have allowed significant proportions to degrade, e.g from 60m northern rata forest to open grassland, and allowed significant populations of pest animals and plants to establish. The process is well described in Esler's "Botany of the Manawatu", published 35 years ago. That sorry tale should be required reading for anyone involved in this proposal. Now the Council propose an even more significant act of environmental destruction. Instead of this proposal they should be acknowledging their past failings and making amends.
9. This proposal precludes possible future alternative uses of the Reserve, for example, as has been successfully achieved at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. Future generations will still be thanking us for that Sanctuary and cursing

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us if the Turitea Windfarm goes ahead.

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

**Deny all applications.**

**We do not wish to be heard and hereby make our submission in writing only.**

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**We make our submission concerning all applications for resource consent.**

**We oppose all the applications for resource consent.**

Signed, Robert McLachlan and Fiona McKergow