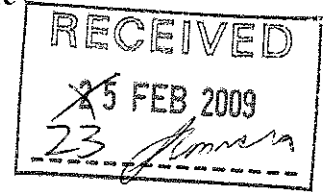


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**SUBMISSION on a PUBLICLY NOTIFIED  
RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION under the  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991.**

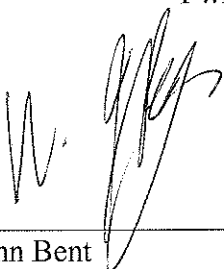


To : Ministry for the Environment

Submission on : Turitea Wind Farm

By : John Bent  
17 Seaforth Avenue  
Palmerston North  
phone: 356 8929.  
e-mail: johnbent@inspire.net.nz

1. I oppose the application.
2. For the reasons as follow.
3. That the application be declined.
4. I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Bent

Date: 21 February 2009.

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John Bent  
17 Seaforth Avenue  
Palmerston North  
Ph: 06 356 8929  
e-mail: johnbent@inspire.net.nz

## REASONS

### 1. VISUAL AMMENITY

The Horizons Regional Council Draft “One Plan” Resource Management Plan identifies the Tararua Ranges as under **Landscapes and natural character** (Objective 7.2(a) and schedule F).

2. As far as I am currently aware the Palmerston North City District Plan is silent on this point.

3. Visual amenity has both a local context and wider context of the southern Ruahine Ranges and northern Tararua Ranges. These are capped by continuous native bush and/or forest but include significant portions of rolling and steeper pasture and forest plantations. Included within this native bush and/or forest is the Turitea Reserve.

4. To date wind farms have been established on such pasture and have limited natural boundaries. (Te Apiti is bounded to the north by the Ruahine Forest Park and to the south by the Manawatu George. The Tararua Windfarm is bounded to the north by the Manawatu George (as identified by One Plan schedule F) and to the south by the Te Rere Hau windfarm which lies to the north of the proposed Turitea Windfarm. To the south of the proposed Turitea Windfarm lies the Motorimu Windfarm and the proposed Horowhenua Energy Windfarm.)

5. The cumulative effect of wind farms has yet to be assessed by Horizons in terms of total number and the area to be available including the extent of coverage of the lower slopes of these ranges. Other issues should be considered in a national context such as the overall distribution of windfarms in order that supply instability is not induced by too great a concentration in one area.

6. To date the approach has been an *ad hoc* approach which by definition avoids consideration of the total impact on visual amenity of existing, proposed and yet to be proposed windfarms.

7. In the local context the proposed Turitea wind farm is both contiguous with, contains and has a backdrop of native bush/forest which is itself contiguous with the Tararua Forest Park. This is unacceptable to me.

8. As is evidenced by the Tararua windfarm, the addition at a later date of further turbines is not of necessity excluded.

9. Visual amenity has no objective measure and therefore it follows that the opinion, expert or lay, of anyone person can carry no greater weight than any other person. The effect on visual amenity of this proposal is to be found in the submissions themselves.

10. **TURITEA RESERVE**

That Turitea Reserve be protected as provided for by RMA Part2 in particular :

s5(a) *Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*

(b) *Safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems*  
and

s6(c) *The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.*

**11.                    CONCLUSIONS**

The application should be declined, without prejudicing a reapplication following adoption of Horizons' One Plan.

**13.**                    The application should be declined as the increasing number of wind turbines have such an adverse cumulative effect on the visual amenity, both regional and local, that mitigation is not an option.