

Our ref: SBC-08-20

13 January 2009

Board of Inquiry  
National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation  
c/o P O Box 10362  
WELLINGTON 6143

Dear Sir/Madam

**NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION -  
FURTHER SUBMISSION**

The Otago Conservation Board submits the following comments in respect of submissions made by others on this National Policy Statement.

**Reversibility**

The board supports submission no. 112 from Fish and Game New Zealand with regard to Policy 3.

The board opposes submission no. 22 from Pioneer Generation Ltd with regard to Policy 3.

***Policy 3***

*When considering proposals to develop new renewable electricity generation activities, decision-makers must have particular regard to the relative degree of reversibility of the adverse environmental effects associated with the proposed generation technologies.*

Reversibility is an important concept that will reduce the environmental effects of renewable generation. Its inclusion in the policy statement will allow decision makers to give preference to technologies and sites with the least long-term environmental impact.

Policy three is only likely to be effective in the Environment Court setting. The board believes that all resource consent applications for all significant renewable energy projects should be referred directly to the Environment Court.

Policy three should be retained.

**Transmission Infrastructure**

The board supports submission no. 89 from Federated Farmers with regard to the comments in Objective 1 and Policies 2 and 3 about transmission infrastructure.

The NPS should address the impacts of the transmission infrastructure (e.g. how and where transmission lines and pylons will be placed) associated with all new electricity generation proposals. The construction, maintenance and ongoing visual obtrusiveness of electricity transmission infrastructure can have very significant effects on landscapes and local ecosystems, however environmentally benign and reversible the related electricity generation is.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Langsbury', with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first part of the signature.

Hoani Langsbury  
Chairperson