

Opposition to wind farm development

Richard Fisher¹ has tracked how successive development of wind turbines near Ashurst and Palmerston North has revealed the following trends in consent applications from 1996-2005;

- increasing numbers of objectors
- increasing sophistication of the objections
- increasing uncertainty on the part of applicants as to the likelihood of success at hearing, in particular how many turbines may be allowed
- increasing requirement for consultation by applicants

Data on Submissions to proposals for wind farms					
Source – Palmerston North City Council					
Wind farm	Year of application	No. of submissions in support	No. of submissions in opposition	No. of neutral submissions	% of submissions in opposition
Tararua 1&2	1996	14	9	0	39%
Te Apiti	2003	11	9	0	45%
Tararua 3 ²	2005	106	230	4	67%
Te Rere Hau	2005	27	44	0	62%
Motorimu	2006	41	165	14	75%
Turitea*	2008	135	474	87 **	68%

* Turitea has been called-in by the Minister for the Environment

** Of the 87 "Neutral" submissions, 79 were 'mixed' in their support/opposition.

Manawatu Wind Farms Consenting History					
Source – Palmerston North City Council					
Wind farm development	Applicant	Decision Maker	Appeals	Turbines Applied for	Turbines Consented
Tararua Stage 1 &2	Tararua Wind Power Ltd	TDC-delegated authority	No	137	137 (87 built)
Tararua Stage 2 (2 nd consent) 2003	Trustpower Ltd	PNCC-delegated authority	No	16	16
Te Apiti	Meridian Energy Ltd	TDC-delegated authority	No	55	55
Tararua Stage 3 (T3)	Trustpower Ltd	Commissioner panel for PNCC/TDC	Yes, then withdrawn	31	40
Te Rere Hau	NZ Windfarms Ltd	Commissioner for PNCC	Yes, resolved in mediation	104	97
Motorimu	Allco	Commissioner panel for PNCC/HDC	Yes	127	75 (commissioners) 80 (Env Court)
Turitea	Mighty River Power	Called In-Board of Inquiry		122	

¹ Fisher RM - *Wind energy in New Zealand: regulatory and policy lessons to date.* October 2005

² Tararua Stage 2 (2nd consent) was a non-notified application