

17 Recommendation

That:

- a) The submission by Mr M Taitoko be declared to be out of time pursuant to Section 97 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and ruled invalid.
- b) In consideration of Section 104, and pursuant to Sections 104B and 108 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Waitomo District Council grants consent to Ventus Energy (NZ) Limited to construct and operate a utility scale wind farm comprised of a maximum of 22 horizontal axis turbines and associated substation buildings, earthworks and access roads and activities as described in Conditions (1) and (2) below for the purpose of generating electricity, on a Rural Zoned site located at Taumatatolara West Road, Taharoa, legally described as:
 - Part Section 10 Block V Kawhia South Survey District and Section 3 Survey Office Plan 53968 comprised in Certificate of Title 141077;
 - Section 3 Block IX Kawhia South Survey District comprised in Certificate of Title SA28A/586;
 - Section 1 Survey Office Plan 58558 comprised in Certificate of Title SA47A/876;
 - Section 1A Block V Kawhia South Survey District comprised in Certificate of Title SA37A/25;
 - Section 12 and Section 22 Block V Kawhia South Survey District comprised in Certificate of Title SA31C/23;
 - Section 2 Block V Kawhia South Survey District comprised in Certificate of Title SA37A/26; and
 - Part Section 24 Block V Kawhia South Survey District and Section 2 Survey Office Plan 53968 comprised in Certificate of Title SA48B/494;

subject to the following conditions:

17.1 General

1. The wind farm development shall be constructed, operated and maintained in general accordance with the information, plans and drawings submitted with the application and received by Council on 23rd December 2005; and the additional information received on 30th January 2005 and 8th March 2005. The application documentation comprises of:
 - (a) Taumatatolara Windfarm Assessment of Environmental Effects, Volume 1 – Main Report, dated March 2005;
 - (b) Taumatatolara Windfarm Assessment of Environmental Effects, Volume 2 – Book of Figures, dated March 2005.
 - (c) Further information received 30th January 2005 and 8th March 2005.

Copies of the approved plans (Labelled 'Approved Plans 'A', 'B' and 'C') are attached.

2. For the purposes of this consent and for avoidance of doubt the activities authorised by this consent include:
- a) the installation, operation and maintenance of no more than twenty-two (22) horizontal axis wind turbines ("turbines");
 - b) An underground fibre optic network connecting each turbine to the central control system in the on-site operations building(s);
 - c) Tracking and placement of an underground network of 33kV transmission lines delivering electricity from each turbine to the two on-site substations;
 - d) Overhead or underground powerlines connecting the on-site wind farm substations to the two existing 33kV lines that traverse the eastern edge of the landholding;
 - e) A fenced compound to house the on-site control building and sub-station equipment;
 - f) Earthworks associated with the creation of the turbine building platforms, access roads and other facilities described in items a) to e) above.
 - g) Widening and/or realignment works along parts of Taumatotara West Road to enable the safe passage of the oversized wind farm components to the site.
3. The turbines shall have a maximum height of 110 metres measured from the ground to the top of the vertically extended blade tip.
4. Each turbine shall be located within a turbine contingency zone of no greater than 100 metre radius from the turbine locations specified in the application. The turbine contingency zones shall avoid locations closer to external property boundaries, significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
5. Prior to construction, the consent holder shall submit to the Manager Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council for approval a plan specifying the final proposed locations of turbines 19 to 22 and a report outlining the reasons for the final locations. The locations of these turbines shall be chosen so that they are located as far as practicable back from the western ridgeline, taking into account geotechnical and other such location requirements, so as to minimise their visual impact as viewed from the west and south.
6. The consent holder shall submit to the Manager Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council an as-built plan confirming the locations of all constructed turbines, access roads, entranceways, excess material fills, the substations and control building, the spare turbine component storage area, electricity transmission lines, and road upgrading/realignment works. The Plan shall also include but is not limited to:
- a) The finished line of cut and fill batters;
 - b) The finished edge line of pavement and seal widening works;
 - c) The location and dimensions of site entrances;
 - d) The finished level of access road centrelines;
 - e) The location, size and extent of all new stormwater drains or culvert extensions;
 - f) The location of all subsoil drains, sumps and manholes; and
 - g) Any underground services installed or altered as part of the works.

This plan shall be certified by a registered surveyor as to the accuracy at the completion of the work and is required to be submitted to Council within 6 months of the completion of construction of the wind farm.

17.2 Noise

Operational Noise

7. The noise from all other activities on the site (other than wind turbine generator operation and construction activities) shall not exceed the following limits when measured in accordance with the requirements of NZS 6801:1991 Measurement of Sound and assessed in accordance with the requirements of NZS 6802:1991 Assessment of Environmental Sound:

7.00am to 7.00pm 45dBA L_{10}

7.00pm to 7.00am 35dBAL₁₀

7.00pm to 7.00am 60dBA L_{max}

8. The noise from the wind farm shall comply with the requirements of NZS6808:1998, Acoustics – The Assessment and Measurement of Sound from Wind Turbine Generators in relation to any dwelling existing at the date of the granting of this consent, except:
- a) Any dwelling on any site that forms part of the wind farm; and
 - b) The dwellings labelled as H1, H2, H2A, H3, and H4 on the approved plans.
9. Prior to commencing any development of the wind farm, detailed ambient noise monitoring shall be undertaken within the notional boundary of any dwelling within the 30dBA noise contour (other than the dwellings specifically referred to in (a) and (b) of condition 8 above) by a person suitably qualified and experienced in acoustics and accepted by the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council. The monitoring shall be undertaken to determine the existing background sound in terms of the requirements of NZS6808:1998 Acoustics – The Assessment and Measurement of Sound from Wind Turbine Generators. Sufficient field measurements shall be undertaken to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Council's Manager, Policy and Planning, that the best fit regression curve gives an accurate representation of the existing noise environment.
10. Prior to commencing any development of the wind farm, the consent holder shall prepare a noise report to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of Council's Manager, Policy and Planning, that the wind farm will comply with the requirements of NZS6808:1998. This report shall be prepared by a person suitably qualified and experienced in acoustics and accepted by the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council.
11. The wind turbines shall not exceed a rotor tip height of 110 metres above ground level and a sound power of 107.2dBA unless it can be demonstrated by a person specialising in acoustics and accepted by the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council that higher turbine heights or sound power will still comply with the requirements of NZS6808:1998.

Construction Noise

12. Noise from all construction and decommissioning work including (but not limited to):
- a) Site works;
 - b) Wind turbine generator assembly and placement;
 - c) Concrete placement;
 - d) Wind turbine removal; and
 - e) Land reinstatement

Shall be measured and assessed in accordance with the requirements of NZS6803:1999 Acoustics – Construction Noise. The noise limits shall be those set

out in Table 2 of NZS6803 for works of "long term" duration (the levels for long term construction work are reproduced in the table below).

Time	Weekdays		Saturdays		Sundays	
	L_{eq}	L_{max}	L_{eq}	L_{max}	L_{eq}	L_{max}
0630-0730	55dBA	75dBA	45dBA	75dBA	45dBA	75dBA
0730-1800	70dBA	85dBA	70dBA	85dBA	55dBA	85dBA
1800-2000	65dBA	80dBA	45dBA	75dBA	45dBA	75dBA
2000-0630	45dBA	75dBA	45dBA	75dBA	45dBA	75dBA

13. No concrete trucks shall be permitted to enter the site before 7.00am or leave the site after 7.00pm.
14. Prior to the commencement of construction, a Construction Noise Management Plan shall be prepared to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council. The Construction Noise Management Plan shall demonstrate how the requirements of condition 12 will be achieved.
15. The Construction Noise Management Plan shall address, amongst other things, the potential noise effects of construction traffic on the roads and techniques to minimise these effects. Any night time (10.00pm – 7.00am) traffic movements must be included in the evaluation.

Noise Monitoring:

16. Within six months of the commencement of operation of the wind farm, the noise levels shall be measured and results provided to the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council.
17. The consent holder shall pay all costs associated with noise compliance measurements, monitoring and reporting.

17.3 Traffic and Roading

Construction Programme

18. A Construction Programme shall be prepared by the consent holder and submitted to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council prior to any construction works commencing. The Construction Programme shall include the following:
 - a) The hours of construction work on Taumatotara West Road and other Waitomo District Council administered roads shall be between 7.00am and 7.00pm Monday to Saturday (excluding public holidays), unless written approval is otherwise obtained from the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council to work outside of these hours;
 - b) Provision shall be made to maintain adequate and safe access to and from individual properties along Taumatotara West Road and other Waitomo District Council administered roads while transportation movements are undertaken; and
 - c) The consent holder shall arrange to hold a copy of all Resource Consents on site at all times during construction.

Traffic Management Plan

19. A Traffic Management Plan shall be prepared by the consent holder and submitted to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council prior to any construction works commencing. The Traffic Management Plan shall be prepared in accordance with the latest edition of the Transit New Zealand Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management and shall include but not be limited to:
- a) The transport route (in general accordance with the route proposed in the application);
 - b) Times and locations when deliveries are prohibited;
 - c) Piloting and traffic management procedures;
 - d) Contingency plans for breakdowns, bridge or pavement failure, severe weather conditions, accidents or roadworks;
 - e) Provisions for co-ordination with other parties, including emergency services;
 - f) Provisions to maintain adequate and safe access to and from individual properties along Taumatotara West Road and other Waitomo District Council administered roads while transportation movements are undertaken; and
 - g) A construction timetable, detailing vehicles movements to and from the site, and the hours that the trucks will operate.
20. The Traffic Management Plan shall be designed to ensure that at all times during construction, all Waitomo District Council administered roads shall be kept open. In exceptional circumstances a request may be sought for short term road closures. Any road closures shall be approved by the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council.
21. If traffic control measures are not carried out in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan and the Transit New Zealand Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management, the Waitomo District Council reserves the right after notifying the consent holder or contractors either verbally or in writing, to instruct the consent holder or contractors to cease all work until the requirements of this Plan and Code of Practice are met. Alternatively the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council, may arrange for the traffic management to be carried out by others, the costs of which will be borne by the consent holder.

Roading Design

22. The consent holder shall provide, to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council, pavement deflection data for relevant sections of Waitomo District Council roads that are to be utilised for transportation of construction materials and turbine components both before and after the construction period. The pavement deflection measurements shall be carried out using either Falling Weight Deflectometer or Benkelman Beam testing techniques.
23. The consent holder shall provide, to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council, bridge inspection findings and details of axle loadings resulting from the transportation of the turbine components, to verify that all Waitomo District Council bridges are able to accommodate the transportation of these loads without resulting in any damage. If the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council considers it to be necessary, Council may require the consent holder to provide an appropriate level of supervision of heavy loads across Waitomo District Council bridges.
24. Detailed roading design plans for internal site access roads, Taumatotara West Road, and any other Waitomo District Council roads that are subject to upgrading or realignment works, shall be developed in accordance with appropriate construction standards and submitted to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning,

Waitomo District Council prior to construction commencing. The detailed design shall include:

- a) Geotechnical investigation and interpretation report;
- b) Corner widening design (including cut/fill batters details);
- c) Taumatotara West Road / Taharoa Road intersection design;
- d) Pavement design;
- e) Surfacing details;
- f) Shoulder feather-edge details;
- g) Drainage (surface water channels and culverts);
- h) Safe stopping sight distance; and
- i) Minimised cut earthworks for the construction of the internal access roads.

Road Maintenance

25. A maintenance regime covering all Waitomo District Council roads and bridges to be utilised for transportation of construction materials and turbine components shall be prepared by the consent holder and submitted to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council prior to any construction works commencing. The maintenance regime shall cover the full construction period and may be developed in partnership with an ongoing maintenance programme (shared with the Waitomo District Council's own Network Maintenance Contractors). The maintenance regime shall ensure the following:

- a) During the construction period, the consent holder shall undertake any necessary works to ensure that the roads and bridges utilised for transportation of construction materials and turbine components are maintained at a quality no less than the quality of the road and bridges prior to construction commencing.

26. A bond of \$86,000 shall be paid to Council to secure the ongoing performance of condition 25 with regard to Taumatotara West Road maintenance only, pursuant to section 108(2)(b) and section 108A of the Resource Management Act 1991. The bond applies to regular maintenance only, not pavement rehabilitation and shall be refunded to the consent holder at such a time as the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council is satisfied that the objectives of the maintenance regime required by condition 25, as it relates to Taumatotara West Road, has been met. Should the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council consider the consent holder is not meeting the objectives of the maintenance regime with regard to the maintenance of Taumatotara West Road, the bond will be utilised to undertake the work.

Access

27. Detail of vehicle access points and permanent entranceways along Taumatotara West Road shall be provided prior to construction works commencing. The details will include allowances for:

- a) Pavement widening to a minimum 6.5 metre sealed width;
- b) Bellmouth radii to a minimum 15 metres;
- c) Entranceway culverts to a minimum 300mm diameter; and
- d) Pavement surfacing to a minimum 70 metres at full width, with matching in tapers at 1 in 10.

28. All internal access roads shall be a minimum of 5 metres in width.

17.4 Landscaping and Visual

29. Prior to construction commencing the consent holder shall submit to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council, a Landscape Mitigation Plan prepared by a suitably qualified Landscape Architect. The Landscape Mitigation Plan shall detail the visual mitigation and landscape restoration strategies that will be undertaken and shall include but not be limited to:
- a) A plan showing details of planting and landscaping to be undertaken around the substation, control building and spare turbine part storage area;
 - b) The height and location of any earth bunds or mounds created for visual, noise, or mitigation purposes;
 - c) Topsoil stockpile and management plan for all topsoil stockpiled for more than six months from the time of stripping;
 - d) The restoration strategy for any disturbed landforms including:
 - i. Permanent earthworks, including all road cuttings;
 - ii. Temporary earthworks, including construction pads; and
 - iii. Topsoil restoration.
 - e) The restoration shall integrate the new landform into the natural contours, and revegetate (with either pasture or planting) so it appears homogenous with the surrounding landscape;
 - f) An implementation strategy identifying when the mitigation works will be undertaken;
 - g) A maintenance schedule.
30. The colour of the turbines shall be selected to minimise the visual impact. Due consideration will be given to the predominant ambient background sky colour in selection of the final colour. Low reflectivity finishes shall be used on the turbines and the turbine blades where practicable.
31. All 'dead' turbines and turbine components shall be removed within one month from the time that they ceased to function, unless exceptional circumstances exist and written approval is obtained from Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council.
32. Upon decommissioning of the wind farm, all visible structures (including turbines, substations and hard stand areas) shall be removed from the site. All foundations shall be buried under a minimum of two metres of soil and revegetated, unless otherwise approved by the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council.

17.5 Air Safety

33. The consent holder shall comply with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Determination issued to Ventus Energy Limited dated 7 February 2006.
34. Those turbines identified as numbers 1, 5, 10, 18 and 22 on the approved plan (and identified below) shall be lit with a medium intensity obstacle light located on the highest practicable point, sufficient to indicate to aircraft the general location of the wind farm.

Turbine ID	Easting	Northing	Attitude
1	2664848	6331439	251m AMSL
5	2665338	6330549	322m AMSL
10	2666640	6329258	319m AMSL
18	2667836	6327401	367m AMSL
22	2668272	6326391	321m AMSL

35. The medium intensity obstacle lights shall –
- be red; and
 - have an effective intensity of not less than 1600 cd of red light;
 - be visible to aircraft approaching the wind farm from any direction; and
 - shall be installed and operated in a way that minimise their visibility to persons on the ground while meeting CAA requirements.

17.6 Geotechnical

36. In accordance with the recommendations of the geotechnical review prepared by Riley Consultants, and submitted with the application (Appendix K of Volume One), the consent holder shall undertake subsurface geotechnical investigation and engineering geological mapping for the wind farm area, to ensure that all of the turbine sites are geotechnically feasible, and provided with stable building platforms. The results of these investigations and detailed design of the proposed geotechnical foundation works for each of the turbines shall be provided for the approval of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council prior to construction commencing.

17.7 Effects on Wildlife

Register

37. The consent holder shall keep a register of observations of effects of the wind farm activities on wildlife. This will include evidence of turbine strike (with species, date, weather conditions and other relevant observations), notes of avoidance behaviour observed, and other observed interaction of wildlife with the wind farm. Ground inspections with nil results should also be recorded. The register shall be maintained for the life of the consent, and shall be made available to Council within 2 working days of its request.

Inspections

38. In accordance with Condition 37 above, all wind farm personnel will inspect the area around the turbine bases when visiting or passing by a turbine, throughout the life of the consent, for evidence of wildlife mortality.
39. The consent holder shall undertake dedicated inspections of all turbine bases for evidence of wildlife mortality at monthly intervals for the first two years of operation. If construction is staged, later turbines shall also continue to be inspected for a full two years.
40. If no significant adverse effects on wildlife are evident then dedicated inspections shall be discontinued, with the prior approval of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council.

If a significant adverse effect is found (through dedicated monitoring or other monitoring) then monthly inspections shall continue in the interim and a plan developed, to the satisfaction of the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council and in consultation with the Department of Conservation, acting reasonably, to address the effects. Such a plan shall propose a monitoring regime and identify methods and options to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects. Specifically excluded from a plan will be any modification or restriction on the operation of the wind turbines.

Reporting:

41. An annual report, detailing the information required in conditions 37 – 40 above shall be provided to Waitomo District Council and the Department of Conservation. Any unidentified species remains recovered shall be referred to the Department of Conservation for identification as soon as is practicably possible following their discovery.

Bird Perches

42. No telecommunications devices or signs shall be connected/attached to any part of the turbines and/or the accessory structures.
43. With the exception of the transmission lines connecting the substation to the existing transmission lines, all other intra project lines within the wind farm shall be underground.
44. The turbine towers shall be tubular in design.

17.8 Ecological Effects

Native Vegetation

45. The clearance and trimming of native vegetation associated with the wind farm activities shall be restricted to the minimum area required to undertake the road realignment works, and any realignments of the power line routes. In particular, the consent holder shall avoid the removal of pole stand Rimu where practicable.
46. The consent holder shall develop and implement a weed control programme for the site and access roads, to the satisfaction of Council, and for the first 2 years of operation.

17.9 Communications

47. In the event that the wind farm activities result in any disruption to free to air (not satellite) television, Broadband Wireless access licenses and/or microwave path operators at those properties in the area surrounding the wind farm site, the consent holder shall assist those parties to obtain reception comparable to the pre-construction quality, to the satisfaction of Council. The consent holder shall advise the Manager Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council of the agreed mitigation measures in writing.

17.10 Complaints Register

48. The consent holder shall appoint a representative who shall be the Waitomo District Council's principal contact person in regard to matters relating to this resource consent. The consent holder shall inform the Manager Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council of the representative's name and how they can be contacted prior to this resource consent being commenced.
49. The consent holder shall maintain a complaints register for the wind farm activities. The register shall record all complaints received and shall include:
- a) **The date, time and duration of the incident that has resulted in the complaint;**
 - b) **The location of the complainant;**
 - c) **The cause of the incident where appropriate;**

- d) **Any corrective action undertaken by the consent holder in response to the complaint.**

The register shall be available to Council within 2 working days of its request.

17.11 Implementation, Review and Monitoring

50. Pursuant to sections 128 to 130 of the Resource Management Act the Waitomo District Council may undertake a review of conditions of consent, within twelve months of the commencement of operation of the wind farm and thereafter on an annual basis for the following purpose:

- a) **to review the effectiveness of the conditions of this resource consent in avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this resource consent (in particular the potential adverse environmental effects in relation to noise, vegetation removal, earthworks, and the visual, landscape and amenity effects), and if necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate such effects by way of further or amended conditions; or**
- b) **to address any adverse effect on the environment which has arisen as a result of the exercise of this consent; or**
- c) **if necessary and appropriate, to require the holder of this resource consent to adopt the best practicable option to remove or reduce adverse effects on the surrounding environment; or**
- d) **to review the adequacy of and the necessity for monitoring undertaken by the consent holder.**

The Council will undertake the review in consultation with the consent holder. The consent holder shall pay the actual and reasonable costs of the review.

51. The consent holder shall pay all costs associated with the implementation of this consent in order to achieve and demonstrate compliance with the consent conditions therein.

52. Pursuant to section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 the consent holder shall pay the actual and reasonable costs incurred by the Council when monitoring the conditions of this consent.

17.12 Lapse Period

53. This consent shall lapse eight years after the date of it being granted, unless the consent is either given effect to before that lapsing date, or unless the Waitomo District Council fixes a longer period pursuant to section 125 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

18 Advisory Notes

- 1) The consent holder shall also ensure compliance with conditions of the Waikato Regional Council resource consent. Conditions related to matters covered by that consent have been omitted from this consent to avoid duplication.
- 2) All on-site works shall comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.
- 3) This consent covers road widening and realignment works associated with Taumatatotara West Road only. The consent holder shall obtain any other resource consents required for road widening, including any resource consents required from Waikato Regional Council.
- 4) The consent holder will need to consult with and meet the requirements of all road controlling authorities affected by the transportation of the turbine components, including Transit New Zealand.
- 5) The consent holder will need to consult with the Manager, Policy and Planning, Waitomo District Council in order to facilitate proceeding with the establishment of a turbine viewing area on Marokopa Road.
- 6) If the transmission lines connecting the substation to the existing electricity transmission lines are located above ground, they shall be designed and located so that they are a permitted activity in accordance with Rule 15.5.1 of the Proposed Waitomo District Plan and the NZ Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001).

19 Reasons for the Decision

- 1) The proposed turbines, substations, ancillary buildings and ancillary activities can be accommodated in this environment in a manner generally consistent with the objectives, policies and environmental outcomes sought by the relevant plans and with the sustainable management purpose of the Act.
- 2) The site is zoned Rural in the Proposed Waitomo District Plan. Wind farms are not an activity that is expressly referred to in the Waitomo District Plan. However, the Plan sets a series of effects-based thresholds for assessment, rather than specifying many activities. The wind farm activity does not comply with five of the conditions for permitted activities in the Rural Zone (maximum height, maximum building area, height in relation to boundary, earthworks and noise) and therefore requires assessment as a discretionary activity. Aside from effects relating to maximum height, the effects of the activity will be largely internalised within the subject site and will be minor.
- 3) Written approvals have been obtained from those persons considered to be the most affected by the development. Effects on these persons have been disregarded by Council in determining this application.
- 4) The nearest dwelling to the wind farm site is approximately 1.8 kilometres from the nearest turbine location and this distance assists in mitigating noise and visual effects.
- 5) The effects relating to the height of the turbines will be more than minor, particularly when considered with regard to visual and landscape effects. However, the nature and scale of the development is such that it would have those effects on almost any site selected.

- 6) It is recognised that turbines 19 to 22 will create the greatest visual impact, however, these turbines are an important aspect of the wind farm from an electricity generation perspective. The turbines will be viewed in the context of the entire wind farm and attention will be drawn to the wind farm from properties in the Marokopa Valley regardless of whether the five turbines were removed or not. A condition has been imposed to ensure that proposed turbines 19 to 22 are located as far back from the western slopes of the adjacent ridgeline as is practicable, to reduce these effects.
- 7) Locations for wind farms in New Zealand are limited due to specific site requirements. The subject site has been identified by the consent holder to be suitable for wind farm development with respect to the site specific requirements of such developments.
- 8) The benefits of the wind farm, when seen in the national context, outweigh the site-specific effects, and the effects on the local surrounding area.
- 9) The activity is consistent with legislation and policies that encourage renewable energy, including the policies and environmental outcomes sought by the RMA, and Government policy relating to energy efficiency and climate change.
- 10) The wind farm will positively contribute to national carbon dioxide reduction strategies with particular reference to the Kyoto Protocol.
- 11) The wind farm will enhance New Zealand's electricity security of supply and diversity of supply.
- 12) The wind farm activity, subject to the resource consent conditions imposed, is generally consistent with Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991. The wind farm will enable people and communities to provide for their wellbeing. The development will contribute positively to sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the needs of future generations.
- 13) Provided mitigation measures are successfully implemented, the wind farm will present no threat to the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil or ecosystems.