



23rd August 2023

West Catlins Preservation
Nathan Stewart

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Nathan

Thank you for your letter 26/7/2023 regarding the proposed wind Farm on Pawakataka, West Catlins, Southland.

As the Catlins Coast Incorporated (CCI) Chairperson, I am writing on behalf of The Catlins Coast Inc. a non-profit organisation (community driven) with its aims and objects focused on the sustainable development of tourism, community development in The Catlins (Clutha and Southland District) and the protection of our natural environment and cultural resources.

With regard to the proposed wind farm on Pawakataka, we note geographically this is part of The Catlins.

Although CCI acknowledge and appreciate the need for clean, green energy, in response to the proposed wind farm on Pawakataka we would like to take this opportunity to raise our concerns.

As follows:

- The 'fast-track' consenting process should allow for a thorough consultation process to be implemented, allowing time for appropriate consultation with the local community, Iwi and relevant organisations e.g., Environment Southland and/or the like.

The consultation should include exploring alternative energy options, the maintenance and sustainability and the long-term impact of the proposed wind farm, taking into account future generations, environmental/flora/fauna impacts.

This includes our precious native birds such as the Kererū and Falcon to name but a few, flying into the turbines and the negative impact on our native bats, lizards in the development of the wind farm and its ongoing environmental effects.

- Due diligence should be undertaken in any data collection which is included in support of the Contract Energy's proposal in terms of i.e., bird counts etc, as the data should accurately reflect and take into account any environmental impact which may have occurred over the year/s such as floods and/or droughts, to ensure the data is meaningful and relevant.
- Other impacts to be considered, is The Catlins becoming an International Dark Sky, given we believe the wind turbines would require additional lighting as specified by Civil Aviation regulations, therefore could jeopardise The Catlins real potential in becoming an International Dark Sky.
- The impact it would have aesthetically on the landscape
- It would seem Southland and South Otago is going to have a high ratio of wind farms to people and would it not be more practical and economical for a wind farm to be built closer to our cities?

CCI note the current review of the Southland District Council Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features mahi is timely as suggest it is an opportunity to highlight concerns in the development of the wind farm on Pawakataka before the submissions close 17th September 2023.

Thank you and I would be happy to discuss our concerns further.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Hilary McNab
(CCI Chairperson)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]