

Your Comment on the Southland Wind Farm project

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email to substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)			
First name	Tim		
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Home phone / Mobile phone	[REDACTED]	Work phone	
Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	[REDACTED]		

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

Please provide your comments below, include additional pages as needed.

My name is Tim Story, and I am the current owner of Jedburgh Station, one of the properties upon which the Southland Wind Farm is proposed.

The entire Southland Wind Farm Site (other than the part of Glencoe Station on the western side of the Project) is on land which was part of the "Venlaw Run" established under a pastoral lease in 1858. In 1903 Robert and Alice Story (my grandparents) would take over the run license. They would continue to operate Venlaw Run until 1941 when their son Colin Story (my father) took over the operation.

My brother Bruce and I farmed Venlaw in partnership from the 1960s until 1990. In 1966 the NZ Forest Service took over 8500 acres which is now known as Venlaw Forest (now owned by Matariki). The property was largely undeveloped when we took over the farming of it. A massive five-year development programme was put in place to jump-start the station. This included fencing, over-sowing, ploughing, new roading, a new woolshed, tracking on the hill, and more. At

the beginning of the programme Venlaw carried 7000-8000 stock units, but by the mid 1980s it was close to 20,000 stock units.

In 1990, Venlaw was subdivided, into Venlaw Forest (now owned by Matariki), Venlaw Station (now owned by David Story) and Jedburgh Station. I farmed Jedburgh Station on my own until 2003 when Murray Kennedy was employed as farm manager.

I have spent my entire childhood and working life on this land. Since 2016 I have mainly lived in Central Otago, but still spend typically at least one week each month on Jedburgh Station, assisting Murray with farm management matters.

The concept of a wind farm on Jedburgh Station was first proposed in 2003. Wind monitoring and other related studies have been undertaken on the land at various periods since then. We have constantly been told by the different wind developers involved, that the wind resource is excellent – and although I am not a wind engineer, I can certainly attest to that, having spent so much time in the environment, and experiencing the wind that can be present in significant strength from all directions.

As caretakers of the site for almost 120 years we have acted as passionate conservation and environmental stewards of the land, following sound principles in Kaitiakitanga and Manaakitanga through the community. With over 60% of property in conservation and emissions management our Whanau have a strong connection with and love for this land and sustainability of this eco-system. Choosing the right party with strong environmental principles was a critical consideration by the me.

As the main landowner it is important for our family that we work with parties whom live and breath the principles Te taiao. Over the years as the landowner we have undertaken native bush restoration, river creek and willow management to ensure trout populations flourish, regenerative practice management and substantial riparian fencing, weed and pest management and gifting of areas to the QE2 trust in the 1980's. We have demonstrated that through good habitat management, both food production systems and biodiversity can co-exist sustainably together and flourish.

As a critical party affected by the Contact Energy proposal for this site, we have been more than impressed with their commitment and dedication to environmental excellence, cultural value and integrated approach to social license across the Southland community. Southland and NZ as a brand stands to benefit significantly through implementation of a project of this nature. We see this as an opportunity to also help contribute and create jobs across the community and support New Zealanders in more sustainable energy.

I have always viewed the prospect of a wind farm on my property as something that is complementary to traditional farming, and not one that competes with farming. However, more recently, and in respect of Contact's proposed offset and compensation measures, I see the wind farm as a means of improving the land.

With an ethos and good principles in environmental stewardship, community connectedness and economic progress, the well-being of this area will continue to thrive.

Over the past five years, the number of pest animals on the land has significantly increased. This is not just something that affects Jedburgh Station – it is a problem throughout the wider area. Over the past two years alone, 850 feral deer and pigs have been killed by hunters that we have had to employ to try to keep the number of these pests under control. The situation is so bad that since March 2025 we have employed two hunters full time in our ongoing efforts in this regard.

Over the past year, 2000 possums have been killed. Three years ago it was difficult to walk through the large gully vegetated with Southern rata and kamahi because of the dense vegetation. Today, the entire understory has been browsed out. It is not stock doing this damage – it is the feral deer, pigs, possums etc. Our efforts in trying to control these pests do not seem to be having much impact, and yet we are spending more and more time and money doing so.

As I said before, this is not a situation that is unique to me and my property – it is something that is widespread in this part of the Southland Region. Much of the issue originates from the south and east – from within the DOC estate land where it appears very little, if any, pest control is being done.

The damage these feral animals do to the land has a material impact on the environment and on the farm's revenue. Deer, pigs, possum, mustelids, rats, cats... they are all out of control and having a material impact. Contact's wind farm proposal will see a significant amount of cost and effort go into reducing the number of these pests – to a much greater extent than the farm could possibly resource. This will provide significant benefit to the environment. This point seems to be lost on many people – they seem to think the wind farm has only a negative impact on the land, but I would suggest the opposite.

On another, but similar, matter, articles in the press and from some members of the local community portray the proposed wind farm as being bad for the local area and something that the local community do not want. Based on comments made to me, things I have heard and things my farm workers (who live in the local community) have heard and reflected to me, this is not a true reflection of what the local community feels as a whole. In fact, there is a lot of support for the wind farm. The town of Wyndham needs projects like this to kick-start the economy. Farming isn't doing enough. The conversion of farmland to forestry is doing even less. The potential for economic stimulus that the wind farm would bring is something Wyndham needs.

Regards,

Tim Story