

# Submission on “Southland Wind Farm”

I am Warren Ayers and as a part of my Sheep and Beef farming business I occupy the land at [REDACTED] that is owned by the J H & M C Ayers No. 1 Trust. I believe I can submit on this application as the Occupier of this land.

I also farm land at [REDACTED] that is owned by the WJ Ayers Trust as part of my farming business. I am also the ratepayer of all the above parcels of land

I Reside at [REDACTED] Our farm has been in our family since 26 October 1911, nearly 115 years ago. The original block was purchased by my great grand father and has been handed down through the generations, with several neighbouring blocks added over the years. I am the fourth generation to be farming here. I believe that I have a great affinity with the land, and it is my hope that future generations will be farming here.

I wish to Submit AGAINST the proposed wind farm

I also ask that the panel take into consideration that this application has also already been rejected under previous legislation, and that this application is like a case of double jeopardy.

There are several items I wish to make my submission on, but I would like to mention here that I am a Farmer, not an engineer or surveyor nor do I profess to have great technical knowledge of the application therefore please excuse my lack of technical expertise. I just want to express how the proposed wind farm will affect my farming business and family.

## Road Access.

1. Waiarikiki – Mimihau road is a tight, twisting road, that is only tar sealed for approximately 2/3 of its length. Where the road reduces to a gravel surface it is poorly maintained. I believe there is currently only approximately 60 vehicle movements on average each day. There are several areas of the hill sections of the road in the vicinity of rapid numbers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that have been prone to slips in the past and a constant battering by overweight vehicles may cause more damage to the road possibly leading to complete collapse of the road.
2. This road is a school bus route between the approximate hours of 7.30 -8.30am and 3.15-4.15pm. This coincides with the potential peak usage be vehicular traffic accessing the site and makes potential travel hazardous especially with over dimension loads using the road. I believe there is no space for a school bus to be safely passed on the gravel portion without having to leave the gravel road and drive on the grass verge. Yet I see no mention in the transport plan of how our children are going to get safely to and from school around oversized loads, heavy trucks and tired workers on their way home.
3. Like most of my neighbours and farming families on Waiarikiki – Mimihau road my farming business is split and operates on both sides of the road. We often move stock along and across the road. Over the last 20 years or so we have often had log trucks operating out of



buildings. The roads in the area are not highly travelled at night. To have 50 wind turbines with what I understand will be two red lights each shining from them at a height of what will be approximately 200 metres above the surrounding land will be a huge destruction of our natural night sky. These lights will be able to be seen possibly as far away as Bluff, Riverton, Stewart Island and right up through Eastern Southland and West Otago. Every night the view from my back door will look like a UFO is landing in the hills. I believe more should be done to protect the Slopedown hills area as a dark sky area of national importance.

4. Please take the time to investigate the distances that the windfarm and its visible distance of both it during the day and its lighting at night. Lots of people comment to me how far they can see the Kaiwera windfarm lights from at night. Its easy to look at pieces of paper, but please take the time to get out and look at this as the Slopedown windfarm is much higher with a significant number more of lights required
5. Although I am not familiar with the exact rules in Central Otago, I understand that if a structure is proposed to be built then some poles must be erected and that the structure outline cannot break the skyline and must blend in. Sometimes it's a pity we don't have rules like this in Southland.

End of life of materials.



1. Are these images what the next generation of our farming families are going to have to look at in the future? It is very easy for a company to promise recycling of materials when it is even easier for them to walk away from expensive demolition and rehabilitation costs at the end of the life of the windfarm. A huge, legally enforceable penalty system needs to be put in place as part of the consent that will enforce the removal of the wind farm at the end of its life.
2. It is equally important that this consent, if it is allowed, restricts this project to the individual sites of each individual tower with no right of replacement or design changes of a tower

without a complete new consent. Just like if I was replacing my woolshed I would have to get the correct consents for a new building

#### Why Here?

1. I guess that is the biggest question in my mind. I believe that this area has been chosen not only because of the wind but also because of its perceived isolation and small number of residences in this area that are able to object to the project
2. I ask that as part of my submission that thought be given to what the reaction would be if this project was to take place on the Port Hills in Canterbury or maybe the Remarkables range near Queenstown. My belief is that there would be a huge case of NIMBY (Not In My BackYard) syndrome that would possibly lead to protests like the Save Manapouri Campaign from 1969-1972 that resulted in the prevention of probably the greatest ecological catastrophe of our lifetime.
3. I believe that this project would destroy the natural significance of the Slopedown Escarpment and will be something that future generations will ask why? why did you let this happen?
4. It is the local community that is going to have to look at this project not some pencil pushers in Wellington that have no connection with the land or the community. More significance needs to be given to the feelings of the local, wider community. People 20-30 kilometres away are going to see a significant destruction of the natural environment, yet they have no chance to be heard.
5. I also believe that none of the landowners of the project will be able to see any windmills/turbines from their residences thus not being subject to any of the visual destruction of the scenic landscapes or night sky.

I am available if you wish to meet with me so I can speak in person which I believe is a much better way of communicating than words on paper.

In my opinion Consultation meetings and handout Deliveries from Contact Energy don't cut the mustard as they are only trying to sell their story and you as the consenting panel for this project need to meet with the local communities and hear their feelings and opinions. Please take the time as part of the process of this consent application to get out into our community and hear what the residents say in person.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Warren John Ayers



Email [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED] (please don't leave a message, just try again later)