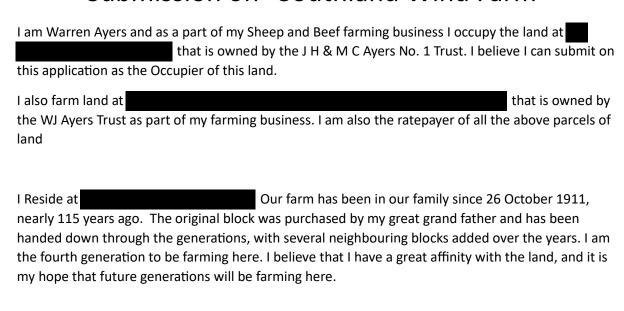
Submission on "Southland Wind Farm"



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 and 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

the Venlaw forest and have found these drivers to be courteous and very accommodating of our stock movements often involving over 1000 sheep or 200 cattle on the road at one time. My priority is to ensure that my staff, family, myself, farm dogs and my stock and that other road users move safely on the road. We always place stock signs prominently to warn motorists, but unfortunately motorists do not always "see" or pay attention to the signs or respect what the people shifting the stock ask them to do. I expect that this behaviour will not improve with the large amount of increased traffic related to the project, especially with tired drivers heading home after a day's work. I would like to see consultation with Farmers on Waiarikiki – Mimihau road and for the proposers of the windfarm to create a traffic management plan that covers livestock movements on the road. I believe that the plan should also include the ability for farmers to put temporary speed limits in place during the times of stock movements on the road. I would also like to see something used in the site induction for all employees and contractors about how to deal with stock movements on the road. Also please note here that freshly weaned lambs are immensely harder to move than a large mob of ewes and sometimes it is best just to hold traffic for a short time to shift the stock. As part of mitigation of this problem the windfarm project should be installing underpasses at strategic places as identified by landowners/occupiers to provide the utmost safety for people and animals involved in stock movements.

Visual Effects



- 1. I refer to viewpoint 11 (above) that I have copied from the Southland Wind Farm Website. This photograph is taken approximately 200 metres southeast of my residence at Waiarikiki Mimihau road. It has also appeared in several publications and on the stuff news website. This is the view that future generations and I will have to tolerate, although I believe that the windmills will be much more prominent than in the viewpoints that have been circulated
- 2. Quite frankly I believe that the windfarm will be a blight on the landscape of the pristine and picturesque Slopedown hills, an area that I believe should be classified as a significant natural area for future generations to enjoy. With an altitude of approximately 5-600 metres above sea level with a further approximately 210 metres of towers and blades this windfarm will be visible from a large portion of Southland. As a comparison the current Kaiwera windfarm is visible from as far away as Crookston in West Otago and Dacre in Southland and I personally find the existing turbines there an eyesore.
- 3. Lighting. The Mokoreta, Oware and Mimihau valleys along with the Slopedown hills are sparsely populated with very little light pollution apart from some farmhouses and farm

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 rehabilitaion costs at the end of the life of the windfarm. A huge, legally enforcable 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?

- 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.
- 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 Avers

Fmail