

Community Energy in our changing climate

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Blueskin Resilient Communities Trust

Resource Consent Public Notification

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Blueskin Energy Ltd Is Proposing Three Night-Lit Turbines On An Elevated & Unsuitable Coastal Site



A deadly toll at Altamont



DOC's Science for Conservation Review (2009) sounds a warning:

- "windfarms can have a negative impact on the abundance of shorebirds"
- [Review advocates] "a precautionary approach to wind farms at coastal sites . . ."
- "the most important factor that influences raptor [e.g. falcons, harriers] collision rate appears to be topography . . . elevation and . . . ridges and slopes"
- "the issue of these lights attracting or confusing nocturnally migrating birds and resulting in them colliding with turbines [is] a concern for wildlife agencies"

*Impact of wind farms on birds: a review — Science for Conservation 289.
Department of Conservation Powlesland R. (2009)*

Dramatic Headlines

- Planner's decision boost for wind farm project
- Otago windfarm moves closer to reality
- DCC planner reserves wind farm position
- Size of wind farm schism apparent
- Submissions split on Otago windfarm
- Windfarm dissent vented
- Windfarm a political statement opponent says
- Residents oppose 'overscale' Otago windfarm
- Turbine answer still blowing in the wind
- Seven year plan for Otago turbines rejected
- Appeal launched over Otago windfarm project
- Wind farm appeal; opponent leaving



- Community project
- Long gestation
- Wide participation

BIG IDEA!

A very public process



Enriched engagement



What now?



Environment Court

- New option presented
- Council 'respondent' positive
- Mediation – unsuccessful
- Expert team assembled
- Funders and Fundraising

Expert evidence critical



RMA process challenges

BEFORE

- Non professional
- Financial
- Legal

DURING

- Legal
- Financial
- Expert/Professional

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation

- Implementation
- Current plan
- 2GP



Role of 'amenity values' in RMA decisions

- **Are** landscape effects given disproportionate weight?
- **How** can perceived adverse effects for a few be weighed against benefit for many?
- **National/global** benefit versus local impacts



Why we need experts

- Rational evaluation of submissions
- Triage of concerns
- Specific concerns addressed
- A structured approach to the hearing



Conclusion

- Modified approach - our Blueskin turbine is a modest development
- Divided community?
- Landscape effects
- Significance for:
 - community
 - wind industry
 - policy

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