

Form 13

**Submission on application concerning resource consent that is subject to public notification by consent authority**

To: Waitomo District Council  
PO Box 404  
Te Kuiti  
Email: [info@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:info@waitomo.govt.nz)

**Submitter Details**

**Name of Submitter(s) in full:**

SUSAN ANNE IRONS ON BEHALF OF  
RC+SA IRONS FAMILY TRUST

**Electronic Address for Service:**  
(email address)

Suegrayrons@gmail.com

**Postal Address for Service:**  
(or alternative method of service  
under section 352 of the Act)

83 TE WAITERE RD  
R.D.8  
TE KUITI 3958

**Primary Address for Service:** (must tick one)

**Electronic Address** (email, as above)

**Or:**

**Postal Address** (as above):

**Telephone** (day):

078767559

**Mobile:**

**Facsimile:**

**Contact Person**

(name and designation, if applicable)

S IRONS

**Application Details**

Application Number:

RM200019

Name of Applicant:

Taumatotara Wind Farm Limited

Application Site Address:

Taumatotara West Road, Te Kuiti

**Description of Proposal**

**Submission Details** (please tick one. Note: click on a box to 'tick' it)

I/we support all or part of the application

I/we oppose all or part of the application

I/we are neutral to all or part of the application

I AM a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991

I am NOT a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991

I AM directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not to relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

I am NOT directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not to relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

**The specific parts of the application that my/our submission relates to are:**

*(give details, using additional pages if required)*

Increase in turbine height.  
The vandalise of our rural landscape  
see attachments

**The reasons for my/our submission are:** *(use additional pages if required)*

As attached

**The decision I/we would like the Council to make is:**

*(give details including, if relevant, the parts of the application you wish to have amended and the general nature of any conditions sought. Use additional pages if required)*

NOT to grant consent for increase height of turbines. No more extension to the time frame.

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**Heard in Support of Submission at the Hearing**

I/we wish to speak in support of my/our submission

I/we do not wish to speak in support of my/our submission

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**Signature**

Signature:

- Electronic signature

Date:

Signature: *Athron*

Date: *30/04/2023*

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## Submission

It was extremely disappointing again to read the Taumatotara Wind Farm (TWF) once again tried to get the height extension under no public notification. It makes one wonder what are they trying to get away with?

Back in 2020 it was the first time we RC & SA Irons Family Trust learnt about the extension to the consent time frame being increased out to 2024. This information was especially disappointing after putting in a submission back in 2006 opposing the windfarm construction. Also at this time it came to our attention through other affected parties that Ventus Energy was finding the Council and their Consultants were being unhelpful regarding the increase turbine diameters and that this would lead to public notification being needed.

There is a lot of emphasis on the fact that there will only be 11 turbines instead of the 22 turbine originally consented for. With the turbines not going ahead to the south of the site. This seems to suggest that it offsets any effects on our environment and our rural landscape to the north.

In WSP report of 22 March 2021 under 3 Landscape context 3.2 it states "Land use within the study area is predominantly pastoral with areas of exotic trees scattered across the landscape. Rural residential buildings and associated farm buildings within the area are generally sparsely located particularly to the north."

Just because this area is sparsely populated it does not mean there is nothing going on in the area.

Our dwelling is on the Te Waitere Road but the majority of our farming operation is in direct line to the turbines and therefore the effects on us are "Very High"

There seems not to be a lot of research done on the effects of wind turbines on animals. Other than cattle seem to get used to them (extract from NZ Wind Farm Association). What happens to those that don't get used to the effects of shadowing, blade glint, vibration, infrasound waves and the interference with the natural rhythms of the life cycles of our sheep and cattle?

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency did a report in 2012 "The impacts of wind power on terrestrial mammals." This report mainly concentrated on reindeer domestic and wild. In their synthesis they state "there are significant knowledge gaps concerning impacts of wind power development on terrestrial mammals"

Attached is a chart regarding animal hearing and frequency heard. Attachment 1

The last sentence reads "The similarities with the human hearing range suggest that animals should perceive the sound of wind turbines in rather the same way as humans do."

There is a lot of differing opinions on Wind Turbine Syndrome on Humans which I understand comes what side of the fence you are on. Scientist Nina Pierpont published a book "Wind Turbine Syndrome" attached a Book Review for reference. But some concern must be given to the possible effects on humans. Attachment 2

These turbines will be in OUR faces in OUR everyday work place as the attached photos indicate.

Attachment 3

In appendix 3B there is a photo looking towards the site of turbines 1 and 2 why is there no photos from the site looking north/north east? Other than ones taken in 2012 which included a photo from the Taharoa Road looking up through the flats on a day that was not very clear.

In Appendix 3C there is a map of the SNA (Significant Natural Areas) looking south is there one of looking north?

In the Further information response from the Applicant.

Memorandum WSP Visual Landscape Attachment

Appendix 1 shows Consented Turbine locations plan on a topography map showing the 11 turbine layout. Should not we be marked as A Third Party?

Why is our House not pointed out when it can be clearly seen along with woolshed/yards?

Photos are supplied from Houses 26 and 28. On the same day photos were taken from our House and Wool shed yards. Are we House 27? What do those photos show? Are we not affected so why not show this or are we affected then why are they not shown? Is this because we do not come under the RMA Act 1991 Section 95D (a)ii. But are we under "Very High" effects.

In Attachment 4 is the photo taken from our Dining Room.

Is this TWF being selective in the information provided? When Taradale farm is marked and we are closer.

In WSP Report 22 March 2021 there is the Scale of Effects (7 Point)

From the Aotearoa New Zealand landscape Assessment Guidelines prepared by the NZILA Dec 8 2020

This is used to describe effects on the landscape.

Very High states;

Total loss to the key attributes of the receiving environment and/or visual context amounting to a complete change of landscape character.

Surely this very applicable to OUR rural environment and OUR everyday work place.

The increase in turbine height from 121m to 171.5m in a cityscape would NOT look out of place but in our rural landscape they will POLLUTE and VANDALISE our natural unspoilt environment. These monstrous structures will become New Zealand's 6<sup>th</sup> highest structures. As attached a list of the tallest existing structures.

Attachment 5

This list shows the structures are in Auckland City apart from the New Plymouth Power Station Chimney which was decommissioned in 2008.

I think it is insincere to state that anyone looking at the wind turbines would have difficulty in determining their height without a comparison nearby. At the new height they will be more easily seen and look totally out of place in our unspoilt natural rural landscape.

The increase in the base area from 14m x 14m to 18m x 18m might not be seen but how much more soil is to be moved than the already approximate 259,00m<sup>3</sup>?

At our house we often hear the sea (sea spray does land on our dining room window) in places over the farm the sound is more intense.

As a lay person it is difficult to understand the noise assessments.

The council I'm sure are very aware as to the state of our roads out here.

The road from Te Anga up the hill to the Taumatotara Road junction in one particular spot is very uneven and dangerous.

There are more serious problems with road from the Taharoa Village up the hill to the Taumatotara Road junction the wind turbines will be a major distraction and could possibly cause inattention resulting in accidents.

Viewpoint 7 on the Taharoa Road is this to be a pull off area for viewing?

It is near a bend that is hard to see oncoming traffic coming down the hill.

We have a road gate near this spot and have to be extra careful of the downhill traffic.

Attachment 6

There has been a Road closed sign on the Taumatotara West Road since February 2022 after the area having 400 mls of rain that caused major damage to farms and roads.

February 2004 we had 500 mls of rain. If these major events are to happen more regularly because of Climate Change what happens at the turbine sites.

What are the benefits to our local community? All the power will be sent out to other places.

In conclusion we as the "little guys" with limited financial resources up against "big city guys" understand that the hearing panel is impartial, we would the panel to take on board our concerns and understand our points of view.

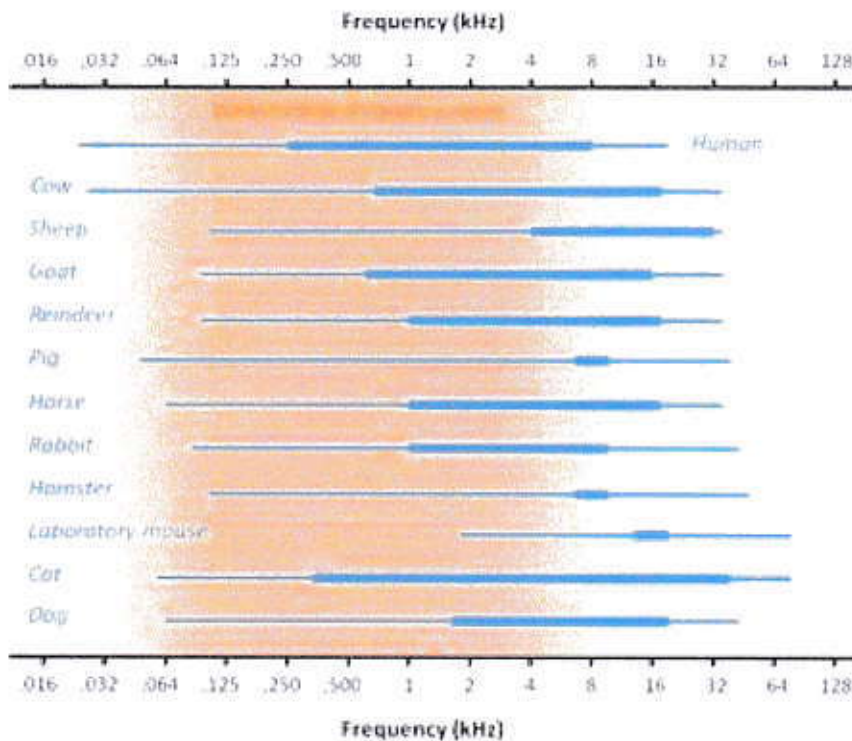
The decision we would like the Council to make is NOT to grant the consent to allow the increase in height from 121.5m to 171.5m as this will pollute and vandalise our natural rural environment.

Also not to allow any extension in the time frame past 2024 as it has already been a long enough time given.

**Animal hearing**

Mammalian hearing is not that unlike human hearing. Humans can hear sound in the frequency range 20–20 000 Hz. Cattle have a hearing range of 23–35 000 Hz, with an extraordinary sensitivity around 8 000 Hz (Heffner & Heffner 1983). Horses have a slightly narrower hearing range, 55–33 500 Hz, with maximum hearing in the range 1000–16 000 Hz (Heffner & Heffner 1983). Pigs' hearing range is more toward ultrasound; frequency response is 42–40 500 Hz, with extra sensitive range at 250–16 000 Hz (Heffner & Heffner 1990). The hearing range of goats is 78–37 000 Hz, with a maximum sensitivity around 2000 Hz (Heffner & Heffner 1990). Reindeer hearing range extends from 70–38 000 Hz (Flydal et al. 2001).

The most prominent frequency range of the aerodynamic sound created by wind turbines is 63–4 000 Hz (Naturvårdsverket 2010). Accordingly, all of the above mentioned species overlap in hearing with the frequency range of wind turbine noise, suggesting that farm animals will readily hear this sound. The similarities with the human hearing range suggest that animals should perceive the sound of wind turbines in rather the same way as humans do.



Frequency ranges for hearing in humans and a number of domestic animals. Broad lines indicate the most sensitive area = audible at <10 dBA. The dominating frequency range of wind turbine noise is shown with the coloured surface. Data from Heffner & Heffner (1990, 2007), Flydal et al. (2001) and Nilsson et al. (2011).



# Attachment 3











Attachment 4



~~This~~ is a list of the tallest structures in New Zealand. It includes all structures to their highest point however building heights listed are only to the Architectural height and non architectural features on buildings are not included in their height.

## Tallest existing structures

Rank	Name	City	Height	Floors	Year	Notes	image
1	<u>Sky Tower</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	328 metres (1,076 ft)	71 equivalent	1997	Tallest structure in New Zealand. 2nd tallest freestanding structure in the Southern Hemisphere.	
2	<u>New Plymouth Power Station chimney</u>	<u>New Plymouth</u>	198 metres (650 ft)	none	1974	Decommissioned in 2008 but the chimney still stands. <sup>[1]</sup>	
3	<u>PwC Tower at Commercial Bay</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	180.1 metres (591 ft)	41 <sup>[2]</sup>	2020	Topped out in June 2019, and its currently the tallest building in New Zealand.	
4	<u>The Pacifica</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	178 metres (584 ft) <sup>[3]</sup>	57	2020	Tallest residential building and by floor count in New Zealand	
5	<u>Vero Centre</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	172 metres (564 ft)	38	2000	2nd tallest office building in New Zealand. <sup>[4]</sup>	
6	<u>Metropolis</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	155 metres (509 ft)	40	1999	<sup>[5]</sup>	
7	<u>ANZ Centre</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	151 metres (495 ft)	35	1991	<sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	
8=	<u>Huntly Power Station chimneys</u>	<u>Huntly</u>	150 metres (492 ft)	none	1983	Coal power station main chimneys <sup>[8]</sup>	
8=	<u>The Sentinel Apartments</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	150 metres (492 ft)	30	2007	<sup>[9]</sup> <sup>[10]</sup> <sup>[11]</sup>	
10	<u>HSBC Tower</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	142 metres (466 ft)	30	2002	Former Pwc Tower <sup>[12]</sup>	
11=	<u>Titahi Bay AM radio transmitter, second mast</u>	<u>Porirua</u>	137 metres (449 ft)	none	1937/1979	<sup>[13]</sup>	
11=	<u>Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter chimney</u>	<u>near Bluff</u>	137 metres (449 ft)	none	1970	Tallest structure in the South Island. <sup>[14]</sup>	
13	<u>Voco Hotel and Holiday Inn</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	135 metres (443 ft)	41	2021		
14	<u>Oaks Residences</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	130 metres (427 ft)	29	2006	<sup>[15]</sup>	
15	<u>Lumley Centre</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	125 metres (410 ft)	29	2005	<sup>[16]</sup>	
16	<u>Mount Kaukau television transmitter</u>	<u>Wellington</u>	122 metres (400 ft)	none	1965	<sup>[17]</sup>	
17	<u>Sugarloaf television</u>	<u>Christchurch</u>	121 metres (397 ft)	none	1966	Height from sea level to top is	

# Attachment 6



Taharoa Road – coming from Taharoa village





From view point 7