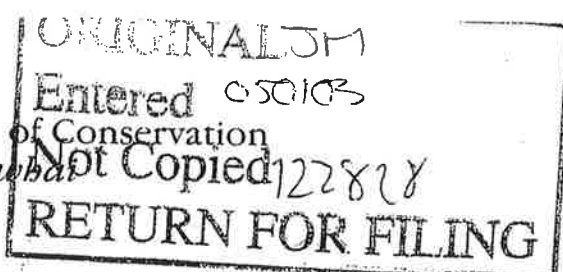




Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



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WAITOMO DISTRICT
COUNCIL

**Submission on publicly notified application for resource consent
Section 96, Resource Management Act 1991**

To: Waitomo District Council

Name of submitter: Ray Scrimgeour, Maniapoto Area Manager, acting under delegated authority for the Director-General of Conservation

Consents: This is a submission on a resource consent application from Ventus Energy Ltd to construct and operate a 22 turbine windfarm at Taumatotara West Rd, Te Anga.

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are:
Monitoring of effects on wildlife.

My submission is:

Wind farms have potential for bird and bat strike. The applicant has suggested that the site is not in the vicinity or travel path of known significant bird or bat populations. Understanding of fauna strike at windfarms in a New Zealand context is quite limited. There is a need for some monitoring, and good recording, of any evidence of strike should it occur. The application submitted contains no such provision.

The submitter had negotiated suitable monitoring conditions with the applicant following notification of the earlier windfarm proposals. However these have not been included in the renewed application. The conditions that both parties previously accepted are proposed below.

I seek the following decision from the consent authority:

If consents are granted, I seek that Council include a condition to address the monitoring of bird and bat strike. A proposed basis for conditions follows:

Monitoring of wind farm effects on wildlife

Purpose:

To provide good data and documentation of the effects of the windfarm on volant (i.e. birds and bats) wildlife; and to assess whether a significant effect is occurring.

Register of effects:

A register will be kept of observations of effects on wildlife. This will include evidence of turbine strike (with species, date, weather conditions and other relevant observations), notes of avoidance behaviour observed, and other observed interaction of wildlife with the wind farm. Ground inspections with nil results should also be recorded. Such a register shall be maintained for the life of the consents.

Inspections:

All windfarm personnel will inspect the area around the turbine bases when visiting or passing by a turbine, throughout the life of the consents.

Dedicated inspections of all turbine bases shall be carried out monthly for the first two years of operation (should turbines be installed in stages then these later turbines will also be inspected for two years also). If no significant adverse effects on wildlife are evident then dedicated inspections shall be discontinued.

If a significant adverse effect is found (through dedicated monitoring or other monitoring) then monthly inspections shall continue in the interim and a plan developed, to the satisfaction of
Maniapoto Area Office

P.O. Box 38, 78 Taupiri Street, Te Kuiti, New Zealand
Telephone 07-878 1050, Fax 07-878 1051

Waitomo District Council and in consultation with the Department of Conservation, acting reasonably, to address the effects. Such a plan shall propose a monitoring regime and identify methods and options to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects. Specifically excluded from a plan will be any modification or restriction on the operation of the wind turbines.

Reporting:

An annual report, including register data, shall be provided to Waitomo District Council and the Department of Conservation. Any unidentified species remains recovered shall be referred to the Department of Conservation for identification.

If these matters are not addressed by consent conditions I seek that the application be declined.

The department wishes to meet with the applicant to discuss these concerns.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission. If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Dated at Te Kuiti this 12th day of March 2006



Ray Scrimgeour
Maniapoto Area Manager

acting pursuant to a delegated
authority on behalf of Hugh Logan
Director-General of Conservation

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(from 1 May 2006 to 30 July 2006 contact is Ray Scrimgeour, rscrimgeour@doc.govt.nz, other contact details as above)