

**In the Environment Court
Christchurch Registry**

ENV-2011-CHC-090

Under the Resource Management Act 1991

and in the matter of direct referral of an application for resource consents by Meridian Energy Limited in respect of the Project Hurunui wind farm proposal under section 87G of the Resource Management Act 1991

Between

Meridian Energy Limited,

and

Hurunui District Council,

and

Canterbury Regional Council,

and

Others

**Statement of Supplementary Evidence of Peter Rough
on behalf of Meridian Energy Limited**

15 August 2012

INTRODUCTION

1. I confirm my full name is Peter Rough and I have the qualifications, professional affiliations and experience as set out in paragraphs 1-7 in my Evidence in Chief (*E/C*) and, as set out at paragraph 8 in my EIC, I agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses.
2. This statement of supplementary evidence includes an A3 size appendix document that contains photograph/DTM simulation combination images.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

3. In this statement I address a final photograph/DTM simulation prepared from Viewpoint 49 on the property of Annette Marr, 2000 Omihi Road. I also address relevant objectives and policies in Chapter 12 of the operative Canterbury Regional Policy Statement¹ (the *CRPS*).

MARR PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH/DTM SIMULATION

4. In my rebuttal statement (at paragraph 181) I recorded that the Appendix 11 images are drafts, as the nature of the existing situation is such that a surveyor is required to accurately establish some reference points in the scene in order for the photograph/DTM simulation to be prepared with precision. At the time of my preparing rebuttal evidence a surveyor had not been able to undertake the necessary work and so the photograph/DTM simulation combinations in Appendix 11 were indicative only. A surveyor has since completed the on-site survey work and Truescape have prepared more accurate images, which are included in Appendix 1 of this supplementary statement.
5. The principal difference between the final Appendix 1 photograph/DTM simulation combination images and the original Appendix 11 indicative images is that the northern meteorological mast and most turbines on the skyline have shifted to the left. In the Appendix 1, Sheet 2 image turbine D12 and the blade tip of turbine A07 have remained stationary but the meteorological mast and all other turbines are shown to the left of the positions they occupied in the indicative images. There is no discernible difference in the actual amount of each turbine that is visible above the skyline and although the closest turbine (F01) appears to be 'separated from' Mrs Marr's office, and turbine A09 is no longer partially concealed by a tree in the middle distance, my previously expressed opinion (paragraph 181, rebuttal statement) about the effects of the

¹ While the RPS is operative, it is my understanding that it is subject to appeals on points of law and thus aspects of the RPS may be subject to change.

proposed wind farm and turbine F01 in particular, when viewed from Viewpoint 49, remain unchanged. Furthermore, as a result of viewing the corrected photograph/DTM simulation combination my opinions (paragraphs 182 and 183, rebuttal evidence) in respect of the effects of the proposed wind farm from Mrs Marr's driveway and flat, open, land between the toe of the hill slopes below the sited of the proposed turbines and Omihi Road (SH1) remain unchanged.

CANTERBURY REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

6. At paragraph 62 in my EIC I made reference to the Proposed Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (2011). This policy statement became operative on 19 July 2012. Of relevance to Project Hurunui Wind is Objective 12.2.1 – 'Identification and protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes' and the related Policy 12.3.1 – 'Identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes'. I addressed the matter of outstanding natural features and landscapes at paragraphs 76-84 and in Appendix B of my EIC.

7. Also of relevance to Project Hurunui Wind, in the new CRPS, is Objective 12.2.2 – 'Identification and protection of other important landscapes' and the related Policy 23.3.3 – 'Protection of other important landscapes'. Objective 12.2.2 states:

The identification and management of other important landscapes and features that do not meet the threshold of outstanding is supported, including:

(1) Areas of high natural character in the coastal environment, and in or around wetlands, lakes and rivers

(2) Amenity landscapes

and protection of those landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

8. At paragraphs 65-75 in my EIC I established that the Project Hurunui Wind site is not within the coastal environment and that the site does not support any wetlands of particular significance. That leaves part (2) 'Amenity landscapes' of the above objective as a possible matter for consideration. In relation to this Policy 12.3.3 states:

To recognise that other important landscapes that do not meet the threshold of outstanding, may warrant protection and management for natural character, amenity, historic cultural, historic heritage or other purposes.

In respect of part (2) of Objective 12.2.2, in the CRPS under 'Principal reasons and explanation', it is stated:

Some district plans provide for varying degrees of amenity landscapes or landscape controls. These might seek the protection of views, or the maintenance of amenity which is important or significant for the local community.

9. With regard to Policy 12.3.3 the CRPS advises under 'Methods' that local authorities may:

(1) Set out, objectives, policies or methods that provide for the protection and management of other important landscapes, including for their natural character, amenity, historic cultural or historic heritage values, or for other purposes.

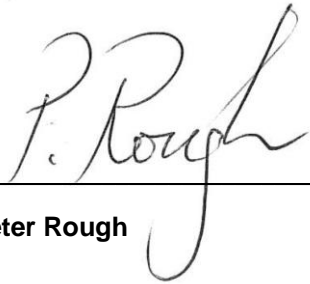
And in relation to this, under 'Principal reasons and explanation' the CRPS notes that the RMA requires consideration of landscapes and landscape values other than outstanding natural features or landscapes and that this might include "identification of amenity landscapes which are important to local communities, which is consistent with Section 7(c)".

10. As far as I am aware, the Hurunui District Council has not identified amenity landscapes that are important to local communities other than those that have been identified in the context of outstanding natural landscapes, because aesthetic values are one of several factors that are taken into consideration when identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes. In essence, amenity landscapes of importance are often encompassed within outstanding natural landscapes. However, turning to amenity landscapes that are not encompassed within outstanding natural landscapes, Ms Steven identified the landscape of Centre Hill and its wider setting as an "important landscape" in the sense of a Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) 'Visual Amenity Landscape' (VAL). I addressed this issue at paragraphs 9-16 in my rebuttal evidence and set out my reasons why I do not think the subject landscape is a candidate for being regarded as an "important landscape" in the sense of a QLDC VAL. In respect of Policy 12.3.3, I do not resile from paragraphs 9-16 in my rebuttal evidence.

11. In response to Ms Stevens' consideration of Objective 12.2.2 and Policy 12.3.3 of the then proposed CRPS, I made comment at paragraph 103 in my rebuttal statement. On reviewing my paragraph 103, it would be appropriate to now delete the first bullet point at the end of the paragraph, which reads: "The Policy statement (2011) is still only a proposed statement." Notwithstanding this point, it is still my opinion that on the basis of work undertaken by Lucas Associates² and my own knowledge of the Hurunui District there is no

² *Landscape of the Hurunui District* (1995).

justification for the Project Hurunui Wind site to be regarded as an important landscape in the sense that it warrants protection and management for natural character, amenity, historic cultural, historic heritage or other purposes, in accordance with Policy 12.3.3 of the CRPS.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. Rough", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Peter Rough

15 August 2012