

Puketiro Windfarm

Newsletter Issue One



Welcome to the first Puketiro Windfarm newsletter.

'Puketiro' is the current working name for a windfarm RES New Zealand Ltd (RES) is seeking to build on rural land a few kilometres north of Pauatahanui.

This newsletter is the first of a number designed to inform the community about our progress. It outlines the opportunities for you to find out more about the proposal and let us know about issues to be considered as we develop it.

We encourage you to take the time to read this and learn more about the project. If you would like more detail, you are welcome to attend our first drop-in day on 28th July at the Anchor Church in Whitby, where further information will be available. See the back of the newsletter for details.

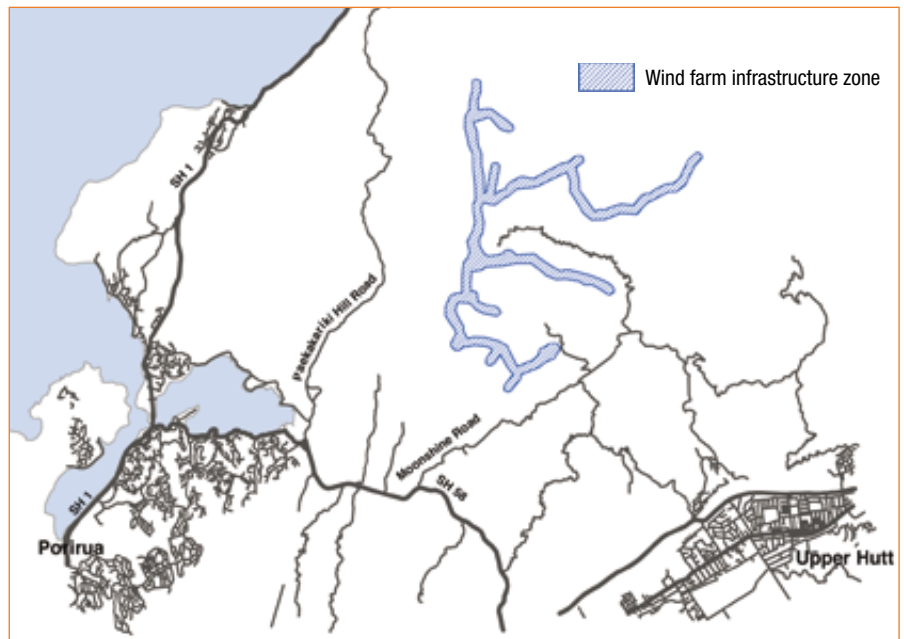
Background

Following a study and public consultation process in 2005, the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) decided to use its own Puketiro Forest to establish

a windfarm. After a tender process, RES was appointed to develop it.

Puketiro will help the Wellington region raise its energy self-sufficiency and increase the amount of electricity available from fully renewable sources, while having a comparatively low environmental impact.

RES is beginning studies to establish firm details about the windfarm project. When the results are ready, we will form our proposal and consult on it towards the end of the year. Following your feedback and further refinement, RES will prepare resource consent applications which we hope to lodge early next year.



RES New Zealand

RES is an independent windfarm operator in the local market. We are a subsidiary of the Renewable Energy Systems group of companies based in the U.K. The RES Group is a specialist wind farm developer with 20 years experience. So far we have developed 43 windfarm projects around the world. See www.res-group.com for further information about the company. RES believes Puketiro will be a world class windfarm site.

RES is independent of the GWRC. Its relationship is governed by an agreement requiring RES to take steps to develop a windfarm on GWRC land.

Project fundamentals

RES is assessing the site on the Puketiro ridges bound by Paekakariki Hill Road, Moonshine Road and SH58. This area includes GWRC land and potentially nearby private land. Only about 1 to 2 % of the overall site area needs to be used for the wind farm infrastructure. Normal farming, forestry and recreational activities will continue mostly unaffected.

RES' preliminary assessment indicates the study area may have the potential for up to 50 large scale (up to 3MW) turbine sites. Because turbines need to be located prominently to capture

the wind's energy, investigations for the windfarm will concentrate on the ridge areas. The windfarm also needs a substation, grid connection lines and access tracks. The designs and locations of these are being investigated and will be settled by RES later this year.





Why was Puketiro chosen?

After detailed study by GWRC, Puketiro was chosen to support its policy of helping Wellington to become more energy self sufficient and less reliant on non-renewable sources. Public consultation showed that of the 1300 submissions received, over 90% were in favour of making the land available for a windfarm.

RES' studies so far indicate that the site has a favourable wind resource; is near to a suitable transmission network, and has reasonable separation from residential areas. We believe that by being sensitive to the community and the environment during the design and consenting processes, the wind farm should have only minor adverse effects.

Environmental issues

While wind power is one of the most sustainable ways of generating electricity, RES is using local experts for environmental advice and input into the development process. We are also working with the district and regional councils to make sure that our environmental assessments

are consistent with good resource management practice. Those assessments include looking at the effect of the windfarm on:

- ▲ Visual impact and landscape
- ▲ Birds and other wildlife
- ▲ Vegetation, including indigenous vegetation
- ▲ Cultural effects and any sites of significance to Maori
- ▲ Water quality and aquatic ecology
- ▲ Indigenous and European archaeology
- ▲ Potential noise impacts on residences
- ▲ Socio-economic benefits and impacts
- ▲ Transport, traffic management and access
- ▲ Effects on service providers and telecommunication links
- ▲ Recreational impacts

Other benefits

As well as generating pollution-free electricity and helping to meet the government's draft strategy for a sustainable, low emissions energy future, during construction we will need a significant workforce. We have a policy of using local contractors and suppliers

wherever possible. There will also be opportunities for new local businesses to be involved in providing materials and services during operations.



Timetable

Saturday 28 July 2007, 10am-4pm **First public open day**

at The Anchor Church, 1 Joseph Banks Drive, Whitby (just off SH 58).

September 2007

Second newsletter and public open day to update progress.

November 2007

Windfarm layout firmed up and further consultation sought.

Early 2008

Resource consent applications and assessment of environmental effects lodged.

Tell us what you think

Consultation with local authorities, interest groups and residents is commencing and will continue right through this year. We would like to hear your views on our proposals.

We welcome your visit at our open day where members of the project team will be available. We will also be announcing details of a project website to keep you updated on progress.

Alternatively you can contact **Chris Drayton** with your comments at:

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