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RES to avoid Battle Hill Farm Park for Puketiro wind farm construction access

RES New Zealand Ltd (“RES”) announced today that the company no longer plans to build the main access road for the construction of the proposed Puketiro wind farm through Greater Wellington Regional Council’s Battle Hill Farm Forest Park (“the Park”). The company had been investigating building a new road across the Park from Paekakariki Hill Road to the top boundary ridge with the Puketiro Forest but has decided against the idea.

This means that the Park will now no longer be the site of wind turbines or the location of the main wind farm entrance route for the Puketiro project.

RES Development Manager Chris Drayton says that the Company can now provide an alternative access from public roads which avoids using the Park. He says that changes to RES’ original proposal, including removing turbine locations near Moonshine Road and on Battle Hill and now the shifting of the access route have taken time to achieve but will make the final proposal more robust and acceptable from an environmental and community perspective.

“We have consulted widely with the community about the proposed wind farm layout and worked hard to accommodate people’s reasonable concerns,” Mr Drayton says. “Like our decision late last year to remove turbines on ridgelines near Moonshine Road, we expect that our decision to avoid Battle Hill for the site entrance will be received favourably, particularly by those who had raised concerns during the latest GWRC Parks Management Plan process.”

RES is going through the process of reviewing and refining the proposed wind farm layout and is planning to be in a position to consult on a new layout and other key aspects of the wind farm later this year.

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