

Media statement

11 September 2017

Wind farm proposal draws Paeroa residents

Around 50 Paeroa residents attended two information days held in Paeroa on 6 and 7 September to learn about the proposal to establish a wind farm on the northern reaches of the Kaimai Ranges at Tirohia.

The information days were promoted, in late August, with flyers delivered by NZ Post to residents living within a 2km radius of the site along with email invitations to people who have logged questions on the Kaimai Wind Farm website.

Glenn Starr, the CEO of the company behind the proposal, Ventus Energy, said the purpose of the information days was to provide the public with an opportunity to come in, learn about the proposal and discuss any concerns with the company.

“Wind energy is clean and abundant in New Zealand and features strongly in the country’s energy strategy with a number of wind farms operating around the country,” Glenn Starr said.

“We understand that people do have concerns however, and the opportunity to express these was the prime motivation for the information days so we could hear, first hand, any concerns or issues enabling us to consider possible mitigations.

“The most common concerns shared by people who came to the information days related to noise, visual impacts and possible effects on property values.

“Our application for a Resource Consent requires us to conduct in-depth, specialist analyses into these and other issues including impacts on recreation, tourism, ecology and sites of historical value to Maori. As a result we have objective, quantitative research which answers these concerns. In the main we were able to provide this information to people at the information days and where reports are not to hand, we have undertaken to provide that insight as reports come to hand.”

Glenn Starr said the company is consulting with the wider Paeroa community on a number of fronts to explain the proposal and hear concerns.

“We have engaged with local Iwi and met with various stakeholder groups and will continue to hold information days up to and beyond the lodgement of our Resource Consent Application. A detailed Q&A on the Kaimai Wind Farm website (www.kaimaiwind.nz) provides answers to residents’ questions we have received to date and we will continue to add to this as questions come to hand.

“I want to invite residents unable to attend the information days or who have questions to contact us via the website – we will get back to you,” Glenn Starr said.

Ventus Energy hopes to submit its Resource Consent Application to the Hauraki District Council in late October 2017 with an optimum commencement date for development in September/October 2018 with completion in 2020.

Ends