

Ventus Energy

Unit 6 Ward St, New Lynn, Auckland, 0600
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14 June 2017

Dear resident,

I hope this finds you warm and cosy as we approach the mid-winter period.

Over recent months we have devoted a great deal of effort into engaging with the local community - listening and understanding the concerns of residents and other interested parties.

We want to be as transparent as possible as we investigate the development of the Kaimai Wind Farm and have condensed all questions we have received from the community, into a Q & A (questions and answers) on the website.

A common focus has been concern over the noise the turbines will generate so acoustics engineer, Dr Stephen Chiles, has compared this to common everyday sounds eg -

- At the typical distance of the nearest houses to a wind farm (500m to 1km) the overall sound is generally a bland indistinct low-level sound, sometimes compared to the sound of waves on a beach.
- When standing underneath or in the vicinity of the wind turbines (within approximately 100 metres) the sound levels are typically in the range of 55 to 60 dB, which is similar to sound levels experienced during normal conversation between people.
- At the nearest houses (eg 500m to 1km) sound levels from wind farms are usually in the range of 35 to 40 dB outside houses. These sound levels outside houses are similar to the sound levels normally experienced inside a quiet library, or from people talking in hushed voices."

Noise is just one concern which has been answered in the Q&A – check it out on <http://www.kaimaiwind.nz/qna>.

When visiting the website you will also notice a series of photo-montages, on the resources page, which simulate the visual impact of the turbines from four different perspectives.

In other news, a meeting was recently held with the Piako Soaring Club in Matamata and we now have a better understanding of the needs of paragliders, hang-gliders and fixed wing gliders. One consequence of that meeting was a request to wind energy specialist (Energy3) asking them to determine the likely turbulent effect behind wind turbines at key wind speeds required by the soaring disciplines. We are also investigating a possible mitigation plan to enable continued use of the soaring amenity.

Kessels Ecology - a company specialising in environmental effects assessment, ecological monitoring and ecological restoration - have been carrying out an in-depth analysis along the bush line for several years. Their research collecting methods have included visual observation and listening devices to monitor birdsong with the object of identifying possible impacts and

recommending mitigation measures. Key measures to improve bat populations would, for example, include predatory pest control eg rats, stoats etc. The analysis will be completed very soon and will be shared with you.

We also have a comprehensive consultation programme planned with local Iwi where we will meet with local representatives to discuss the project and understand whether they have any concerns of cultural significance.

We will keep you updated on any further development on our website and via these letters. If you have any questions please ask them via the website <http://www.kaimaiwind.nz/> so can answer direct to you, and add it to the Q&A.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Starr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glenn Starr
Director
Ventus Energy (NZ)