

9 August 2005

Re: Project West Wind (Service Request Number: 131428)

This submission is from the Wellington Architectural Centre, a group which represents both professional and non-professionals interested in architecture and design, and in the promotion of good design in Wellington.

1) Support for the Proposal

The Architectural Centre strongly supports this proposal by Meridian Energy for Project West Wind.

2) Specific Comments

We strongly support the proposal for the following reasons:

a) The wind turbines will provide a strong sculptural presence in the landscape. They are elegant structures which will enrich the landscape. This is evident in existing wind farms (e.g. Te Apiti Wind Farm), where the wind turbines are a productive intervention in the rural landscape and add to the design and aesthetic interest of the land.

b) We strongly support the use of wind as an alternative source of energy. As a community we cannot continue to rely exclusively on non-renewable resources for electricity. Sustainable, renewable sources of energy are critical to ensure the long-term viability of the environment. In addition, if in the future an alternative energy source is found, and wind power is deemed to be less appropriate, turbines can be removed with minimum impact on the landscape, unlike, for example, dams.

c) Wind Turbines in the Wellington region have been positive additions to the community, and, for instance, in Brooklyn have enabled strong positive community identity and landmark status. We support public access to the site, similar to access available at other sites. This will attract interest and likely make Makara a stronger and more sustainable community.

d) Any negative impact of site works will clearly be offset by the positive gains for the environment that wind-generated electricity will have.

We acknowledge that there has been opposition to this project, especially from residents in Makara. Our understanding is that key concerns have been raised such as:

- visibility from Makara Beach
- noise levels
- ecological impact

We consider that Meridan Energy have addressed these concerns in this proposal.

- there will be no turbines visible from Makara Beach
- noise levels will not be such that they will impact negatively on the local residents
- we understand that ecologically sensitive parts of the site will not be built on, or be affected by the construction of the turbines

3) Conclusion



the architectural centre inc.
PO Box 24178 Wellington

We strongly support Project West Wind, and hope that it becomes a successful model for other areas in New Zealand to follow.

Yours sincerely

Christine McCarthy
President, Architectural Centre