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**BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL**

**IN THE MATTER**

of hearings on submissions  
concerning the Proposed One Plan  
notified by the Manawatu-  
Wanganui Regional Council

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**SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION 42A REPORT BY JOHN MAASSEN  
FOR HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL  
REGARDING CHAPTER 7 – LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL FEATURES**

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Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009

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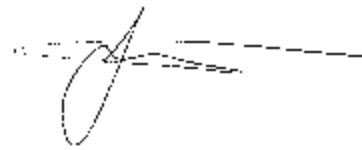
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1. This is a supplementary report responding only to the letter dated 9 April 2009 from Mighty River Power Limited specifically focused on my S.42A Report.
2. At a conceptual level it is important to understand that:
  - (a) The Hearing Panel is undertaking an inquiry, it is not determining a resource consent dispute. It is deciding upon future policy that will guide resource management in the region and must in that task consider and be satisfied on a range of matters specified in the RMA;
  - (b) My function is not limited to a statement of legal matters but is also intended to provide context based on experience and to assist the Hearing Panel in understanding the submissions it has received and to prepare for the hearing by identifying relevant background material.
3. Some clarification is required in relation to the jurisdictional issue concerning evidence on the Turitea Windfarm raised by Mighty River Power. Methodologies for visual and cumulative visual impact assessment in New Zealand of wind farms are still developed on a case by case basis. There is no high level planning instrument in New Zealand that provides adequate guidance on the methodologies for assessment including impact zone ratings. Analysis of cumulative visual impacts is likely to occur in the context of the Turitea Windfarm as it raises that issue. The analysis that a range of parties will undertake concerning cumulative impact of windfarming on the Palmerston North Tararua Backdrop (some of whom are also submitters to POP) may provide information that would be useful in addressing matters raised in submissions and that are within the scope of the Hearing Panel's inquiry. In particular, the existing capacity of the landscape to absorb additional windfarm development and the impacts on urban populations. It seemed useful to me to identify this information is being discussed in other forums as it may facilitate the Hearing Panel receiving more rather than less information and I consider that the more information the

Hearing Panel receives the more likely it is to perform its statutory function adequately. I did not contemplate:

- (a) that information specific to the effects of the TWF proposal was helpful or particularly relevant to the task of the Hearing Panel;
  - (b) that the Hearing Panel obtain at their own behest evidence made available to the Board of Inquiry and use it in the hearing process; or
  - (c) that the Hearing Panel consider evidence other than evidence presented at the One Plan hearing which the Board could consider and test.
4. All submitters were free to decide the level of input into the hearing into the landscape provisions of POP.
5. In relation to MRP specific interest in the Turitea Windfarm. I assumed that the work of the Hearing Panel was unlikely to have any material influence on the outcome of the Board of Inquiry's deliberations given that the Board's inquiry will precede the outcome of the Hearing Panel's deliberations.



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John Maassen