

Form 3
**Submission on proposal for national policy statement for renewable
electricity generation**

In accordance with section 49 of the Resource Management Act 1991

To The Chairperson
Board of Inquiry

This is a submission on the Proposed National Policy Statement For Renewable Electricity Generation that was publicly notified on 6 September 2008.

The specific provisions of the proposal that my submission relates to are:

- 1. Timeframe for submissions**
- 2. Generality and vagueness of the Proposed NPS**
- 3. Lack of guidance for decision makers when considering other matters of national importance**
- 4. Unbalanced approach to energy use**

My submission is:

1. The submission timeframe is less than 2 months. It also coincides with an election period. This is not appropriate. The Proposed NPS has not been well-promoted.

Decision sought:

Extend the submission period for another 6 weeks and publicise its existence.

2. The contents are very vague and general. For example, Policy 1 refers to “any scale”.

However at the same time it does not address the issues as to whether renewable energy is beneficial “at any location” or “of any nature”.

Guidance should be given as to how and where locations for various types of renewable energy projects should be considered e.g. with windfarms, developers should be required to compensate and relocate residents within a 2km area to enable them to relocate. At present the situation is entirely inequitable, with the favoured landowners being paid large sums by the developers but the neighbours have to stay and suffer. This is grossly unfair.

Wild and scenic rivers will be destroyed in the name of selfish consumption.

“No-go” areas should be set out nationally to ensure our cultural and natural heritage is not destroyed for future generations by our short term desires to consume energy.

Outside of these ‘no-go’ areas, local authorities, in consultation with their communities, need to consider at what locations and at what intensity of development various forms of renewable energy is appropriate. This should include ‘favoured locations’ as well as “no-go” areas.

These decisions should be made at a regional scale – e.g. Auckland Region should decide whether or not windfarms should be permitted on the Waitakere and Hunua Ranges; whether, and if so, where, tidal energy projects would be considered.

Policy 4 (i) is unclear with its references to objectives and policies, identification and “potential sites”. Sure this should refer to “appropriate sites?”

Policy 4 (ii) is also unclear – is this supposed to mean provisions for trialling renewable technologies? Or does it mean that local authorities are to carry out investigations themselves? (if so this is ridiculous, so I assume it means the former?)

Decision sought:

Re write Policy 1 so as to convey that renewable energy is to be favoured if it is appropriately located, at appropriate scale, and that those who are to suffer adverse effects are adequately compensated.

Re write Policy 4 (i) not refer to the identification of appropriate sites

Clarify Policy 4 (ii) to allow for short term consents for small-scale trials.

3. Whilst the benefits of renewable energy are supported, this should not be at any cost. This NPS is well-meaning but misguided.

Its role in directing local authorities to plan for renewable energy is supported, but the heavy handed “its good at any price” is totally opposed

Decision sought:

Include new policies outlying what sort of areas should be ‘no-go’ in terms of Section 6 of the RMA.

4. This NPS makes renewable energy more important than any other values. It forces new generation on communities and the environment regardless of what it might destroy, and does not require any reduction in demand or consumption. This is not sustainable management!

Decision sought:

Make it clear that renewable energy does not “trump” other nationally important values.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Signature of submitter

29 October 2008

(A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.)

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