



## Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

**MP for Nelson**

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Minister for ACC

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Paul Stichbury  
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Thank you for your emails of 2 October and 4 October 2011 with attachments regarding the Turitea Wind Farm Proposal decision and Final Report.

Several of the issues you raise, such as the hazard to the Pahiatua Track and construction on the earthquake fault line, relate to decisions of the Board of Inquiry (the Board) appointed to hear and decide Turitea Wind Farm Proposal (the Proposal).

The Board is an independent body that has considered the Proposal, as well as all of the submissions made to it, the evidence presented and comments made on the Draft Report. The Board has now reached a decision on this matter and I have no power to require the decision to be withdrawn, revised and reissued as you have requested. Furthermore, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on how the Board has reached its decision.

Once a Board of Inquiry has produced its Final Report and made its decision on the matter, it has completed its statutory function. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provides submitters with the opportunity to lodge an appeal with the High Court on points of law, within fifteen working days of receiving notification of the Board's Final Report and Decision. I am advised that this appeal period has now closed.

The concerns you raise with respect to the Tararua District and Palmerston North City district plans are matters that should be taken up directly with the councils involved. I note that there is no legislative requirement for local authorities to amend their plans to provide for the New Zealand Standard Acoustics – Wind farm noise (NZS 6808:2010).

NZS 6808:2010 was developed by Standards New Zealand. I suggest you contact Standards New Zealand directly if you would like to further discuss your concerns about the committee that developed NZS 6808:2010.

Matters of compensation for adversely affected parties should be discussed directly with Mighty River Power and the parties concerned.

I acknowledge your participation in the hearing process and your contribution as a submitter.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dr Nick Smith  
**Minister for the Environment**