

HEARING 11 - Energy, Infrastructure, Transport & Designations

LAY EVIDENCE – Errol McIntyre/ Morsar Trust, 951 Oromahoe Rd

Introduction :

I farm my Trust's 398 ha property which was a part of the family estate that began in 1904 in the Whangae. The property is zoned Rural Production and has no easements registered on the titles. Less than half the area is farmland; the remainder being mature and regenerating native with 60 ha of exotic plantation.

My predecessors allowed two 33 kva lines to be constructed over the property; a part going through existing pine plantations whilst another area was planted later.

Impacts:

Apart from losing a spectacular building site, the main impact is the loss of income from the area covered by the lines and the allowable setback. Nominal forestry returns average \$50k per ha per 25 year rotation; carbon credits have not been ascertained.

Concerns:

The major concern is that under Top Energy's proposals in the PDP, 33kva lines may be re-classified as Critical Electricity Lines and be given similar protections as the National Grid. The definition of "upgrades" is also of concern, as this would allow the construction of new lines without the need for any consultation or easements (compensation). I have already experienced the addition of a new telecommunications line without being consulted.

I am of the opinion that Top Energy's proposals are outside of existing legislation covering transmission lines and would leave the FNDC in an awkward position should the proposals be included in the PDP.