



2 April 2009

Media Release

MainPower deeply disappointed at Mt Cass wind farm decision

MainPower is deeply disappointed that its resource consent for a wind farm on Mt Cass has been declined by the Hurunui District Council.

Managing Director Allan Berge said MainPower would carefully consider the decision before deciding on further action.

Mt Cass wind farm has the potential to be a significant step towards energy self-sufficiency for the region, using the region's renewable energy resources. And it would make a meaningful contribution to meeting New Zealand's needs for a secure energy supply. It would also contribute up to \$38 million and more than 200 jobs to the regional economy during the two to three years of construction.

Mr Berge said submissions from people within the region were overwhelmingly in favour of the wind farm and MainPower was grateful for that support.

"We think this is a backward step for the region and we will now consider options," Mr Berge said.

Ends

Contact - Todd Mead, 0274 555 161

About Mt Cass

Mt Cass is a prominent hill six kilometres east of Waipara. The proposal was for wind farm to be situated on 6.5 kilometres of ridge running north-east from the summit of Mt Cass.

MainPower's "design envelope" approach means it had sought resource consent for a flexible turbine configuration – between 26 turbines with a 125 metre height and 83 turbines with a 47 metre height – to allow it to access the best technical and commercial option.

The Mt Cass wind farm could generate enough energy for 11,000 to 24,000 homes – enough for all the households in the Hurunui and Waimakariri districts. For further information see

About MainPower

MainPower owns and operates the power lines used to supply electricity to the people and businesses of North Canterbury and Kaikoura. We service every household, farm, business and community organisation in the region.

We have been part of the local community since 1928, starting our life as the North Canterbury Electric Power Board. Today we are one of the largest employers in the region and a proud member of the local community.

We are owned by the MainPower Trust on behalf of the community. Our profits go back to the community through a monthly power bill rebate - in the last financial year this rebate totalled \$6.9 million dollars.

Our vision is to contribute to the local community by being a leading electricity and energy business.