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MITIGATION AGREEMENT REACHED WITH NGAA RAURU KIITAH I OVER WAVERLEY WIND FARM PROPOSAL

After four years of discussions, Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi has settled on a mitigation agreement with Tararua Wind Power Limited, a fully owned subsidiary of Tilt Renewables Limited (formerly Trustpower Limited) regarding the proposed Waverley wind farm, its Chair Te Pahunga Marty Davis said today.

“We have successfully addressed most of the concerns we held regarding the proposed wind farm and have agreed to a package to help with those remaining concerns,” Mr Davis said. Te Kaahui o Rauru, the Waipipi Te Ahu Whenua Trust and Whenuakura, Wai-o Turi and Te Wairoa Iti Marae have therefore withdrawn their submissions in opposition to the 48 wind turbine project.

Mr Davis said “a critical step in this process has been helping Tararua Wind Power understand our painful history. This site was part of land confiscated by the government in the 1860s following the Taranaki land wars. The confiscation disconnected Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi from our land and resources. This left us with little or no opportunity to lead development on our own land. The terms of the agreement allows Ngaa Rauru to have a voice by being a part of this development.”

Tilt Renewables General Manager – Renewable Development Clayton Delmarter says “Tilt Renewables is very pleased to have been able to work collaboratively with Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi and wider stakeholders to achieve this outcome and address the majority of their concerns with the proposed development. We very much look forward to cementing a long-term relationship that brings with it real, sustainable benefits aligned with appropriate environmental and cultural values.”

The mitigation package includes input to management plans for the restoration and enhancement of Waipipi Stream and the coastal landscape, protection measures for migratory bird species and translocation measures for freshwater fish and plant species. Permanent access to the landlocked 20 hectare Waipipi block (a historically important hapuu village) has been facilitated, and Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi will provide cultural monitoring and support to the windfarm project.

“Our environmental management plan recognises the threat of a changing climate and the value of renewable electricity generation. We’re pleased to be forming an ongoing relationship where we can work alongside Tilt in supporting renewable energy development and bringing social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits to our region and our people.”

Mr. Davis said the iwi was particularly looking forward to improved access to the Waipipi block. “The Waipipi block was an important fishing village where our people stayed in the summer and was known as ‘Marae-ki-tai’ or an ‘ocean restaurant’. Our people are looking forward to having access to the land in order to revive traditional practices and consider further developments” he said.

For further information, please contact Anne-Marie Broughton on 027 342 3005.