

## Submission, support of Crudine Ridge Wind Farm MOD 1

The conservation of flora and protection of biodiversity are aims we must pursue as a society. However, it must be done correctly. The purpose of a road corridor is to establish and maintain reliable and safe means of transportation, not to conserve flora or protect biodiversity. Citizens, councils and governments must find better ways and locations to achieve these aims than road corridors.

The current state of Aarons Pass Road is neither safe or reliable and the planned development will improve both attributes greatly. While MWRC can be criticised for not taking action on these previously, with its limited funds and vast road network, we can safely assume that if this opportunity is not taken now it will take many, many years and cost damage, injury and possibly death before another opportunity presents itself.

The narrow windy road is not safe. Poor visibility and tight slippery bends are a recipe for accidents either with on-coming vehicles or trees. I have only travelled along the road once every two months for the past four years (roughly twenty-four trips) and have already encountered one neighbour who was forced off the road into a tree due to an on-coming vehicle. Luckily, she was not injured but she was greatly distressed by the accident. How many other accidents have there been and how many near misses have gone unreported on this road?

The nature of the trees and the clay in the area means that trees are constantly dropping large limbs or being uprooted onto the road, especially during storms. These are not only dangerous but they can completely stop traffic. In the past four years I have had to drag large trees off the road twice and driven around many more that were moved by others. Imagine a mother in a sedan trying to take a sick child to hospital in such a circumstance. That is why I say the road does not provide a reliable means of transportation.

When CWP started clearing along Aarons Pass Road I became excited and hopeful. I started thinking about all the improvements I could make on my rural block. With improved access for trucks and easier access for myself this would mean deliveries would be easier and I could visit more often, and possibly even reside there one day. When progress stopped, I was greatly disappointed.

From reading the assessment report, I believe that conservation and biodiversity concerns are adequately dealt with in the submission. I urge those who disagree to consider lobbying council and government to set aside land for those purposes rather than opposing the development.

Rod Franich