



# Mighty River plans wind farm

Mighty River Power plans to build up to 131 wind turbines in Palmerston North's Turitea Reserve and on neighbouring properties.

The state-owned company confirmed it will seek resource consents for the wind farm, which could potentially generate up to 360MW of electricity for the national grid, enough to power 150,000 houses. Consistent wind speeds at the north-

ern end of the Tararua Forest Park make the site potentially "one of New Zealand's most successful wind generation developments", according to Mighty River Power.

Applications for resource consents will be heard by independent commissioners.

It is understood that most of the planned 131 turbines would be on private land.

The controversial plan – a

joint venture between Palmerston North City Council and Mighty River Power – involves using revenue generated by the wind farm to create an eco-park.

Council business development executive Mike Manson said the park would be about the size of Kapiti Island.

No more than 25ha of the reserve would be used for the wind farm, he said.