

NEWS

JANUARY 2006

10	TrustPower plans \$500 million wind farm (New Zealand Herald Chris Daniels) In an interesting article covering the proposed development of a number of wind farms throughout New Zealand, it is noted that one of the wind farm proposals is at Awhitu in Franklin district by Genesis energy. Genesis is concerned at the cost and time (two years) required obtaining consent for this relatively small wind farm.
15	New Mt Wellington Quarry Road (City Scene) It is announced that a start has not yet been made by the site's developer Landco on the new road through the Quarry site, at its northern end, from the intersection of College and Merton Roads. Works proposed are to include a new roundabout at College and Merton Roads, partial realignment of College Road between the new roundabout and Norman Lesser Drive and construction of the new road south west of the new Auckland netball development, to link it through to Morrin Road. Civic Trust Auckland has objected to the new road alignment, on the grounds that it bi-sects and therefore severely lowers the amenity value of the existing Ngahue Reserve, from which there are pleasant views across the quarry floor, back towards Maungarei/Mt Wellington. Civic Trust Auckland notes that the new road (to be a four lane dual carriageway) would seem to be effectively a first stage of the eastern corridor proposal, supposedly shelved under the current administration. Most importantly however, Civic Trust notes that the proposed alignment of that road will destroy the site of and the small remaining residual portion of Te Tauomo/Purchas Volcano, situated just north of Homestead Drive. Submissions for the site of this volcanic remnant and the original volcanic outline to be retained as a reserve have been energetically pursued by Munroe Graham, Chair of the <i>Volcanic Landforms Protection</i> Sub-committee of Civic Trust Auckland , in conjunction with Bruce Hayward of the New Zealand Geological Society , the Volcanic Cones Society and a number of other organisations and individuals.
15	Quay Street Upgrade (City Scene) An article notes that a further \$1.2m northern footpath upgrade has commenced being a further phase of the \$7m upgrade currently underway. This is part of the City's \$100m plan to transform key streets within the central city over the next 10 years. It is claimed that no trees are being harmed along Quay Street.
18	Queen Street Trees (New Zealand Herald Rudman's City). This article dealt with the political background to what is described as "the latest disaster in the ongoing \$100m Queen Street upgrade". Needless to say it was highly critical of most political endeavours to date, but gave credit to the political instincts of Mayor, Dick Hubbard, who placed a moratorium on the proposed tree clearance, which had caused such a public fuss.
19	Domestic Terminal Expansion (New Zealand Herald Ann Gibson) Linking of the two domestic air terminals of Qantas and Air New Zealand by the construction of a shopping hub is announced. The cost is expected to be \$17m to \$30m, with a further \$15m being spent on a four level, 180 vehicle carpark. The article notes that the Airport had recently spent \$75m on the upgrade of its Jean Batten International Terminal.
27	Road tolls (New Zealand Herald Dick Hubbard) Dick Hubbard Mayor of Auckland has written an article supporting the concept of introducing road tolls for selected Auckland roads. This was to prove a highly contentious issue was mostly negative feedback from Aucklanders as evidenced by their letters to the editor and selected articles in the press.
28	Power pains (New Zealand Herald Chris Daniels) This report, tracking huge electrical power price increases to consumers during the last 30 years suggests that the worst might be over. The prediction is that price increases may be flattening out. This seems unlikely.