

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**21 July 2008**

### **Wind farms looking good poll finds**

The majority of New Zealanders have no problem with the look of wind farms though not everyone wants to see them from their home, the latest Research New Zealand polling shows.

The polling found that the look of wind farms found broad acceptance with New Zealanders. Of those polled, 84 percent said they had no objection to the way wind farms looked, while 13 percent said they were opposed to the look of wind farms.

However, the level of support falls away if the wind farms are located close to home. When asked if they would object or approve of being able to see a wind farm from their home the level of opposition doubled to 26 percent. Despite this, 70 percent said they would approve of being able to see a wind farm from their home.

Research New Zealand director Emanuel Kalafatelis said that it was to be expected that the “not in my back yard” factor would increase the level of opposition.

“However, the high level of approval for the way wind farms look, even if you see them from where you live, indicates most New Zealanders do not see wind farms as a form of visual pollution,” Mr Kalafatelis said.

The poll also asked if New Zealand should consider using nuclear power as a source of energy.

The poll found that, while more than half (54 percent) of New Zealanders were opposed to the idea, a significant proportion (37 percent) felt that New Zealand should consider nuclear power. This result is consistent with the 36 percent approval recorded by a similar poll published on 25 May 2008.

There was significantly more support for nuclear power from men (49 percent) than women (26 percent), Mr Kalafatelis said,

“We also found that older people were more likely to support nuclear power than young people (45 percent of those aged over 60 years compared to 29 percent of people aged 15 to 29),” Mr Kalafatelis said.

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 8 July and 11 July.



The Research New Zealand poll of 502 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 8 -11 July. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.5 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

## Wind farms

**Respondents were asked:** *Do you object to the way wind farms look?*

**Respondents were also asked:** *Would you approve or disapprove of a wind farm being built within view of your home?*

**Table 1: Object to the way wind farms look**

*Do you object at all to the way wind farms look?*

	Total
Base =	502
	%
Yes	13
No	84
Don't know	2
Total	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 2: Level of approval or disapproval of a wind farm being built within view of home**

*Would you approve or disapprove of a wind farm being built within view of your home?*

	Total
Base =	502
	%
Approve	70
Disapprove	26
Don't know	4
Total	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



## Nuclear power

**Respondents were asked:** *Given concerns about the environment, and the prospect of ongoing power crises and price rises, should New Zealand consider nuclear power as a viable energy source?*

**Table 3: Should New Zealand consider nuclear power as an energy source - by gender**

*Given concerns about the environment, and the prospect of ongoing power crises and price rises, should New Zealand consider nuclear power as a viable energy source?*

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	502	234	268
	%	%	%
Yes	37	<b>49</b>	<b>26</b>
No	54	46	61
Don't know	9	5	12
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 4: Should New Zealand consider nuclear power as an energy source - by age**

*Given concerns about the environment, and the prospect of ongoing power crises and price rises, should New Zealand consider nuclear power as a viable energy source?*

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	502	93	87	82	91	149
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	37	<b>29</b>	37	38	39	<b>45</b>
No	54	59	54	56	56	45
Don't know	9	12	9	6	4	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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