

# PROTECT RURAL EAST FIFE

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Fife Council  
Fife House  
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Glenrothes  
Fife KY7 5LT

Tuesday, 31 July 2007

Dear Sirs,

## **Planning Application No. 07/01813/EEIA Erection of 5 Wind turbines at Gathercauld, Ceres**

We, PREF (Protect Rural East Fife Group), hereby object, in the strongest possible terms, to the above application on grounds as follows:

1. The proposed erection of 'gigantic' wind turbines in this Area of Great Landscape Value is unwelcome and would be a departure from the approved policies of the adopted Fife Structure Plan 2002 and the adopted St Andrews Area Local Plan 1996;

Policy R7 of the 2002 Structure Plan clearly states that all development proposals must "respect the key features and character of the landscape and minimise their impact on the skyline."

Policy N1 of the 2002 Structure Plan states that any development in an Area of Great Landscape Value should maintain or enhance the character of the landscape.

The proposed development would dominate the skyline and may be visible from a wide area of Fife and Dundee, including the A91 main tourist route between Dairsie and Cupar, the B939 and A915. In our opinion, the development would be overly intrusive and the character of the area would be degraded from a natural scenic landscape to a standard 'Industrialised' landscape. Furthermore, the amenity of local residents would be degraded and drivers of road vehicles would be faced with a major distraction. Moreover, the development may have an adverse impact on the local economy.

2. With regard to the economy, the proposal does not fit with the proposed strategy of the Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006 which seeks to grow an economy built on tourism and service. Whilst we do not agree with this particular strategy for the whole of Fife, we recognise that tourism is an important generator for the economy, particularly in Rural East Fife, and we are concerned that this development may have an adverse effect on the economy.

For example, consumer research by Visit Scotland on the "Impact of Wind Farms on Tourism" found that 25% of visitors may not return to an area where they feel a wind farm had been insensitively sited and where it detracts from the scenery that has been a major reason for their visit.

This research work, by a statutory research agency, should be taken into account in the consideration of this proposal.

3. The proposal does not fit with the recommendations of the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (FLCA 1999), a material consideration in this matter. We refer you to page 109 of the FLCA 1999, where Scottish National Heritage recommend that Fife Council should;