

Letter re: Thunderbolt Wind Farm

20 May 2022

My Name: Catherine Margaret Woof

Address: 'Balmoral'
1264 Green Valley Rd
Bendemeer NSW 2355

Application Name: Thunderbolt Wind Farm

Application Number: SSD-10807896

To: Director

Energy Assessments, Development Assessment
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022,
Parramatta NSW 2124.

Dear Director,

This letter constitutes my objections to the Thunderbolt Wind Farm from the point of view of my business, Sole Trader CM Woof, of grazier producing superfine merino wool and meat on Balmoral, a property that is a contiguous neighbour of both Stage 1 hosts, Kyabra and Looanga. I have made no donations to any political party.

Grounds for my objection

- with hosts only
- ↓ The consultative process ^{with hosts only} was well advanced before I heard about its existence. Hence any real concerns by Neoen ^{for my farming business} are and were non-existent. The track record of Neoen staff, particularly Ms Joanna Murphy, to respond to the issues raised by my partner and manager, Mr Stephen Johnston,

is poor to say the least - the "yes I will send information" to his requests eventuated in nothing, and can be interpreted as solely placatory.

Turbines 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and most particularly number 28 will cause problems with the management of stock. The most critical issues arise during lambing, when noise and sudden movements can cause mis-mothering of new-born lambs with their mothers. The problem is most acute with ewes giving birth to twins and maiden ewes that are lambing for the first time. We have used all paddocks adjacent to Looanga and Kyabra for lambing, including the area very close to Turbine No 28.

Not only would the routine operation of turbines startle sheep, but even more, the construction phase, with blasting, concrete pouring, operation of heavy machinery and presence of strangers just across the boundary, cause problems and significant stress for ewes lambing, a phase that takes place over 8 weeks in the spring. Indeed, a single inadvertent flyover of a superspreading plane ^{has} caused mis-mothering in lambing maiden ewes and the DEATHS of some 22 lambs. What would blasting do?

Neoen's track record with my manager for communication is very poor. The EIS states "notification" will ~~not~~ occur, but MORE IS NEEDED, and the use of this language is an indicator of the company's ignorance.

For animal health reasons, Neoen needs to work WITH US, and ~~at~~ to restate, lambing in the New England generally occurs in spring, and always on 'Balmoral' in the spring.

OTHER CRITICAL ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES arise from the NECESSITY ~~to~~ to muster our sheep ^{about to} short notice when fly strike occurs or it is evidently ~~it~~ due to the type of weather, typically occurring in the New England in summer. At this time stock may need to be drenched for Barber's Pole worm, and after the window of opportunity to do this before significantly large numbers of animals die is from a few days to a week.

"Notification" of work is not ~~an~~ adequate policy, and will result in significant harm to our stock and our livelihood. It is a "top down" attitude that cares little for the problematic details of merino sheep management. KYABRA do not run sheep.

We do our mustering on horseback using stock working dogs. Skittish stock and distracted horses make this work dangerous, as we are used to quietly "poking along" so stress to our stock is kept to an absolute minimum. Undue stress can cause weakness in the wool and reduce the money paid for it.

3/ The consultative committee under Mr Paradise ~~se~~ did not seem impartial, and the conduct of at least two members has been aimed at "selling the idea" to objectors. Mr Angus Carter, ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~committee~~, works for Nutrien, the supplier of agricultural products to Kyabra. Mr Philip Roberts president of Kentucky Fire Brigade, is potentially a host for Stage 2, and, although in administration of the brigade, does not fight fires yet seeks to allay concerns in this area. My manager, Mr Stephen Johnston, is a Deputy Captain of Kentucky Brigade with many years experience fighting fires in difficult hilly terrain, and has repeatedly expressed his concern that the turbines will present a danger to aerial fire fighting in this type of country.

3 Cumulative Impact. The New England only comparatively has been listed as a Renewable Energy Zone. Since this, many companies have been scrambling to get both solar and wind projects approved. The degraded roads, dodging speeding gravel trucks, the drain on the Shire's resources is evident on any car journey in to town. But aside from this, I do not see or hear anything about the CAPACITY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO ~~OVER~~ PROVIDE REGULATORY OVERSIGHT for so many projects happening all at once.

What if there is a "failure to Notify"? My sheep could be dead or injured. How will the New South Wales State Government defend my right to farm and not to have my stock injured or frightened by turbines in proximity to my boundaries? What has been set in place to mandate the company, Neoen, to communicate effectively, not ~~a~~ merely "notify"? ~~which~~ There are so many projects going ahead, the "consultative" process for the community has been biased and minimal for my needs, that it beggars belief that the Cumulative Effects will not lead to problems in regulatory oversight.