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12/12/2022

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

Reference: Winterbourne Wind Farm SSD - 10471

I OBJECT to the Winterbourne Wind Farm development.



- I declare that I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous two years
- I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

The reason for my position stated above is the following;

We wish to register our objection in the strongest terms to the proposed development of the Winterbourne Wind Farm. The proposed wind farm is in close proximity to our farm where we live and work. There are number of concerns that need to be raised in reply to the Environmental Impact Statement. These concerns are attached in the following submission.

Kind regards,

Name: David and Samantha Harrison

Signature 


WILDLIFE

1. An interesting article notes that construction or expansion of forest roads creates more access for predators such as foxes and dingoes. Ref: www.sciencedirect.com the impact of Wind towers on birds and mammals. Dingoes are one of our major problems as our property borders the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.
2. Eagles, Hawks, Bats, Owls, and Insects are all affected by Wind turbine blades. There is a large population of Eagles in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park who frequently are seen on private properties in the Winterbourne area. The American Bird Conservancy's president Mike Parr on 7/04/2022 said "It is well – known that if you put turbines in eagle habitat, there will be fatalities." Ref: stopthesethings.com 12/05/2022.
3. The Oxley Wild Rivers National Park is a Protected Wilderness World Heritage Area.
4. Eagles are a protected animal; how can a wind farm be built next to their home?

ROADS

1. We travel sheep from our property Paradale along Tabletop and Winterbourne roads to a Paddock we own on Hazeldean road and another on Weenganimbee Road and back again – for shearing and crutching throughout the year. How will we be able to do this with wind farm trucks travelling back and forth?
2. The road is narrow in parts along the Tabletop Road, particularly from Millbank ramp onwards. Two cars can barely pass each other. The road is not wide enough for trucks to pass, it will be necessary to pull off the road to let them pass. This is inconvenient and dangerous.
3. The old one lane bridge on Tabletop Road at Millbank, may not stand added pressure of heavy trucks carrying wind turbines.

NOISE

Investigations have revealed thumping wind farm noise annoyed neighbours 9kilometres away, our nearest turbine will be just over 2klms from our house.

In a South Australian senate enquiry, Ref: stopthesethings.com 10/06/2015, Clive and Trina Gare, cattle graziers who host 19 wind towers and receive \$200,000 per year under their contract with AGL, gave evidence and described the noise from turbines as 'unbearable', requiring earplugs to help them sleep. AGL soundproofed their house and they still slept with the radio on, sometimes loudly to counteract the intrusive noise of the wind towers. Trina Gare stated in her opinion towers should be no closer than 5 klms to a dwelling.

One of the first studies into windfarm noise has found turbines could disrupt people living nearby and can be heard almost 9klms away. Rumbling windfarm noise can be persistent enough to annoy residents 3.5klms away. This study by lead researcher Dr Kristy Hansen Ref; Jim Bruce Solar Empower Oct 10, 2022.

Noise pollution affects animals also, altering their behaviour causing them to move further away. Noise increases levels of stress. Again, how can a wind farm be built next to a World Heritage Area where protected species reside?

HEALTH

We are obviously worried about the health implications of living near wind towers. As stated above the low frequency noise and infrasound can cause adverse health effects, including sleep deprivation. Then leading to hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and psychological distress.

Australia's Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) has declared that the 'noise annoyance' caused by wind turbine generated low-frequency noise and infrasound "is a plausible pathway to disease, possibly mediated in part by disturbed sleep and/or psychological stress/distress." REF: 09/12/2017 stopthesethings.com Waubra Foundation.

We live out here at Winterbourne to be away from industrialization and with this development we will get noise, infrasound's, vibrations, and flicker light.

Research conducted by Anne Dumbille, Robert McMurty, Carmen Krogh "Wind turbines and adverse health effects: Applying Bradford Hill's criteria for causation" Dec 10, 2021, proved that living or working near wind towers can result in adverse health effects in both people and animals.

WATER

Vestas has stated in their Environmental Impact Statement that the vast amounts of water they require for the project will be sourced from farm dams and new and existing bores. How will this affect neighbouring properties like ours? In the recent drought bores failed proving that underground water is not unlimited.

In a report completed by stopthesethings.com 07/08/2019, in Ontario Canada, wind turbine construction destroyed the town water supply. The wind developers were eventually charged over contamination under the Environmental Protection Act – this occurred from pile driving and excavations required for 400m cubed of steel reinforced concrete for turbine bases, turning underground water into black silt. Is this what we must look forward to?

There is also risk of water pollution in our dams and creeks from chemical contamination, introduction of weeds and pathogens to water run-off.

In de-commissioning when felling the Wind towers on site, the cutting up of the blades and dismantling of turbines creates pollution that can again runoff into water supplies and contaminate soils.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

It is local knowledge that the Winterbourne area was a traditional travel route from Walcha to the coast for aboriginal people. From Walcha through Winterbourne into the National Park, through the Narrow-Neck trail to the Apsley River and onto the Macley River; this area would include sacred sites, burial sites, cooking utensils and many archeologically significant areas that will be disturbed by this project. According to The Voice for Walcha, Vestas has failed to consult local Dunghutti tribes as of 03/12/2022.

CONCLUSION

We believe the Winterbourne Wind Farm will be a mistake for our area. It is proposed to be built next to the World Heritage Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, home to protected species such as the eagle who is known to fly high and in other wind farms to die because of collisions with wind tower blades.

Our personal health concerns for ourselves, our families, and our employees.

The inconvenience of construction, potential pollution to our water supplies and soils. The danger of driving on our narrow roads during construction and deconstruction. The affect on our business, being able to travel stock on our local roads. The rude and arrogant disregard for our local aboriginal population and their heritage. We live here in large part for the peace and quiet and the beautiful landscape – we do not want our area destroyed by an industrial wind farm. If this wind farm proposal was so good, then why does Vestas offer neighbours money to sign a confidentiality agreement to keep our mouths shut? What have they got to hide and what are they afraid of?